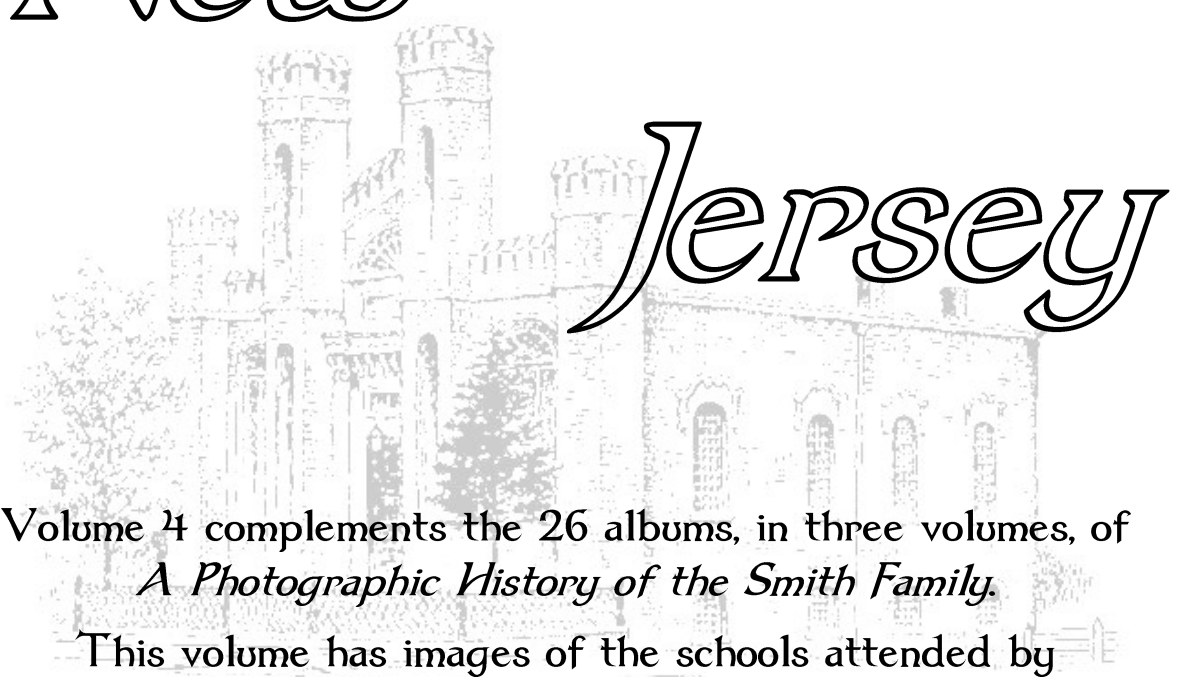


A Photographic History of the Smith Family
Volume 4, Album 3

Grade, Junior, & High Schools
of

New Jersey



Volume 4 complements the 26 albums, in three volumes, of
A Photographic History of the Smith Family.

This volume has images of the schools attended by
members of the family as well as images of schools that
were integral in some manner to the family and the society
in which they found themselves.

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A Photographic History

of the

Smith Family

Volume 1: Anna Marie Kutarnia & Joseph John Smith

Album 1	The road to Trenton	1886 – 1927
Album 2	Pre-war years in Trenton	1927 – 1939
Album 3	Trenton Central High School Yearbook	1931 – 1942
Album 4	Weddings	1937 – 1948
Album 5	Serving the country	1941 – 1945
Album 6	Trenton	1940 – 1959
Album 7	Christmas Greetings	1941 – 1960
Album 8	Moving on from Trenton	1960 – 1989
Album 9	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1987
Album 10	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1995
Album 11	The next generation	1990 – 2019
Album 12	Colorized black and white photographs	1909 – 1960
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Volume 2: Albert Jean Matelena & Valentine William Smith

Album 1	Saint Mary's Cathedral, Trenton to Hamilton	1950s
Album 2	The suburban dream in DeCou Village	1960s
Album 3	Formal portraits and school photos	1961 – 2020
Album 4	Hamilton Township	1970s
Album 5	Jupiter, Florida	1980s
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Album 7	The Next Generation	21 st century
Album 8	Colorized black and white photographs	1940 – 1975

Volume 3: Dorothy Ruth Southard & Albert Joseph Matelena

Album 1	Italians	1780 – 1990
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Album 4	West Meets East	1640 – 1960
Album 5	Albert Joseph Matelena & Dorothy Ruth Southard	1910 – 2020

Volume 4: Towns, buildings, and places in the United States

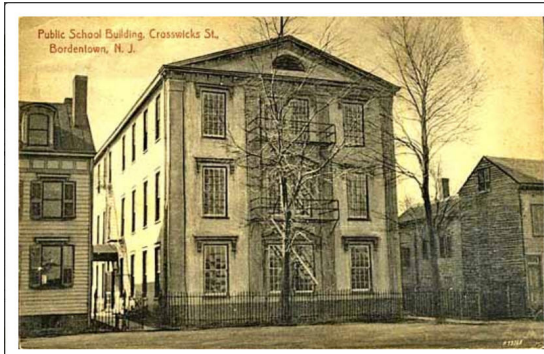
Album 1 New Jersey Churches
Album 2 New Jersey Cemeteries & Grave Markers
[Album 3](#) [New Jersey Schools](#)
Album 4 New Jersey Places

Tentative

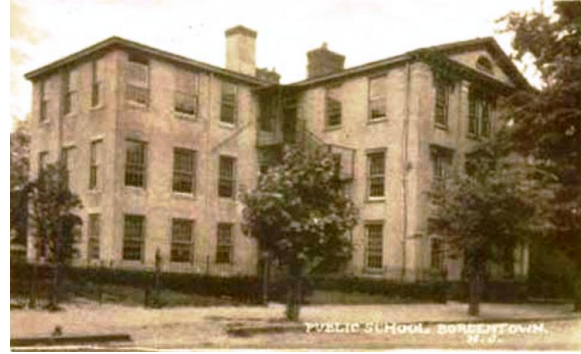
Album 5 New York Churches
Album 6 New York Cemeteries & Headstones
Album 7 New York Schools
Album 8 New York Neighborhoods
Album 9 tba
Album 10 Pennsylvania Churches, Cemeteries, Headstones, and Schools

Schools

This album will be overwhelmingly concerned with schools in the greater Trenton area but before that topic is enjoined, there is one school in Bordentown and another in Chesterfield that deserve to be included.



Bordentown - Public School on Crosswicks Street - 1909



1905 Bordentown Public School, Crosswicks Street 1915



Chesterfield Public School

Chesterfield Public School

The following pages are schools located in Trenton and Hamilton Township.
They are grouped into elementary, junior high, and senior high schools.

Elementary schools



200 William Street, Hamilton Township
7 blocks from Dayton & Broad



159 No. Clinton Ave. @Grant; the Matelena girls recall crossing over the Southard Street bridge walking from their home on Cavelle Street, Grant Elementary was the school they headed for.



But Grant wasn't the only grade school they attended; Jefferson School at 401 No. Brunswick was also attended, depending on where they were living.

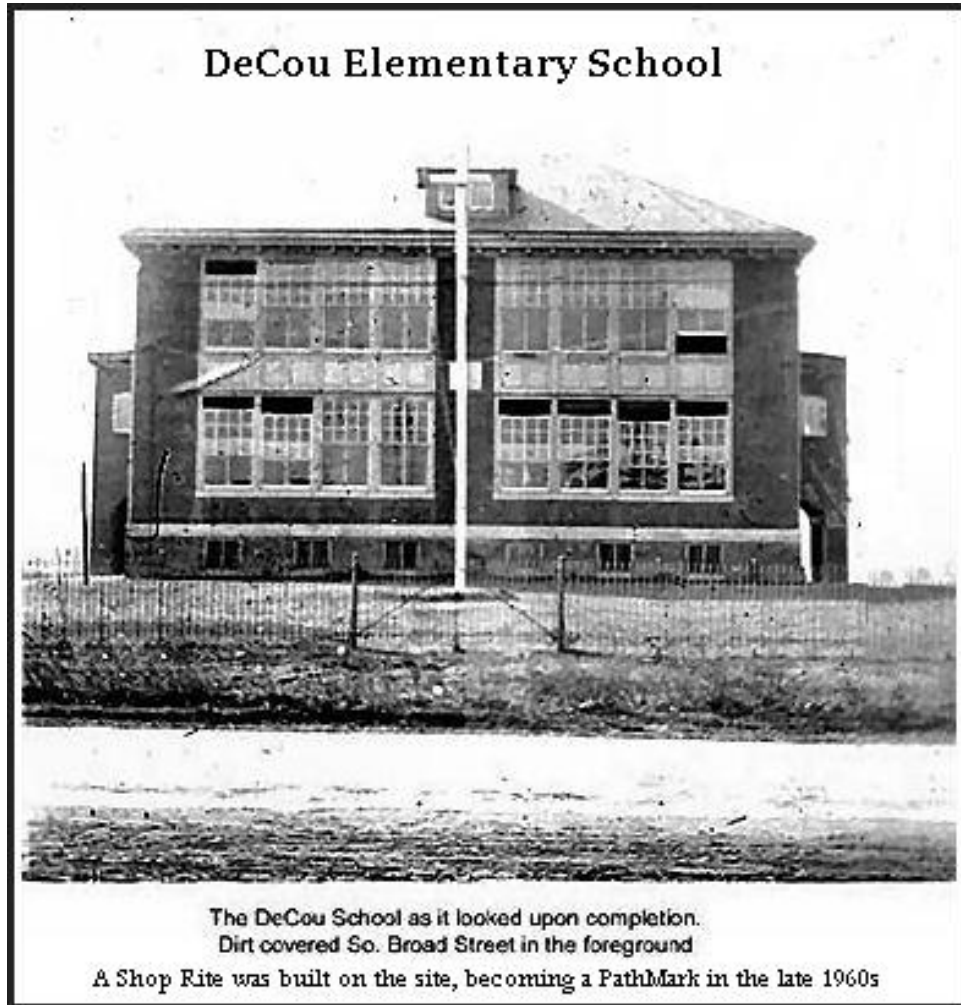


Joseph Wood Elementary, now the Public Library on Academy St. attended by John Matelena.



Hamilton Township

There was only one school that mattered – Kisthardt! Oh, and DeCou,
(but that was before my time!)



The DeCou School as it looked upon completion.
Dirt covered So. Broad Street in the foreground

A Shop Rite was built on the site, becoming a PathMark in the late 1960s

*“... as it looked **upon completion.**” ????*

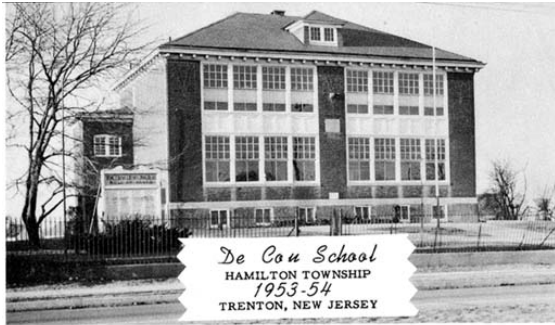
A fenced-off, barren dirt lot and mostly absent windows; think it was supposed to say

*“... as it looked **after being abandoned.**”*

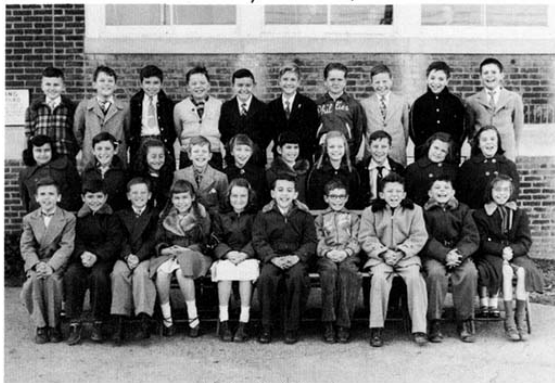
Probably taken around 1955, right before it caught fire.

Recognize anyone?

Now this looks like it hasn't been subject to several tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, hooligans, and n'er-do-wells!



Miss Logan, 4th Grade



School Patrol



Mrs. McCracken, 5th Grade



Mrs. Dornstauber, 6th Grade



**DeCou
School
1954**
Thanks to Ruth Keller Dornstauber

Kisthardt Elementary

At first, the school was just this tiny section with 3 classrooms and the absurdly tiny “library” was the principal’s office. At the time, the school had just 3 grades; no library or *cafegymnatorium* either!

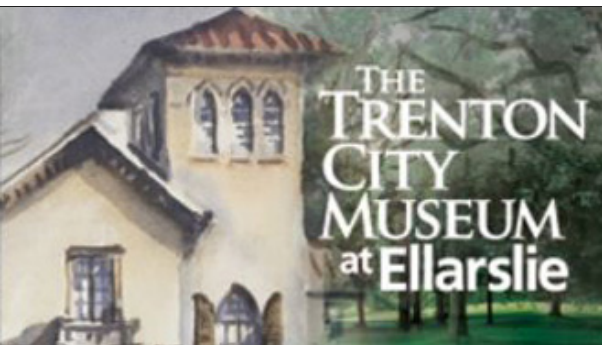


With DeCou being abandoned as it was structurally unsound, a new wing was added.



And a big *cafegymnatorium* ... the “all-purpose” room; and a real principal’s office and a *postage-stamp-size* library.





ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

The Segregation/
Desegregation of
Trenton Schools:
Hedgepeth-Williams vs
the Trenton Board of
Education



L to R: Mrs. Berline Williams, Robert Queen, Esq., Leon Williams, Mrs. Gladys Hedgepeth, and Janet Hedgepeth



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

February 18

Photographing the
Decaying Junior No. 1
by J. Carlos Vargas
(exterior) and Robert
J. Sammons (interior)

February 25

William A Poland,
Architect of
Junior No. 1 and
over 2,000 other
buildings

March 4

Junior No. 1
School Days – a
talk with former
Principal Albert
Williams and
teachers

March 18

The 1916 Polio
Epidemic and the
Building of
Trenton's
Municipal Colony



Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Perry Street

- African Americans have been an integral part of the history of New Jersey's capital since the Colonel period, when the first Blacks were brought to Trenton as slaves of the early settlers.
- The wills of the most prominent early settlers, Mahlon Stacey (d.1704) and William Trent (d.1724), both included slaves of African descent among their property at the time of their deaths.
- During the early 19th century African Americans residents began forming institutions to serve and support their small community. Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church was one such organizations that has survived to the present.

- Public schools began as education for the poor in 1820, with the State Legislature authorizing townships to raise money by taxation “for the education of such poor children as are paupers...and the children of such poor parents as are, or shall be...unable to pay for schooling the same,”
- The first reference of public schooling in Trenton was reported in a newspaper in 1827: *The township of Trenton, at the late annual town meeting, voted 300 dollars for the schooling of poor children.*
- Trenton’s free public schools began in rented rooms for the education of poor people only.
- The city’s first specifically built school was the **Centre Street School**, later renamed the **Skeleton School** was built in 1844 by Nottingham Township which was annexed to Trenton in 1851,



YWCA – East Hanover Street

- The city established its first school for colored children in a building on E. Hanover Street named “Jackson Hall” in 1832. The building was a gathering place for African Americans for many years.
- By the 1850’s the student population was around 60 children.
- Because of complains about its dilapidated condition, this building, then popularly called “Nightmare Hall” was sold by the city in 1855 for \$21.00 and removed. The Young Women’s Christian Association now occupies the site.



- In 1845 Trenton school trustees urged City Council to establish primary and upper schools for boys and girls as well as colored children.
- The **Higbee Street School** was built in 1857. The schoolhouse partially collapsed twice before its completion. It was so named because that was the name of the street. This was the first public educational institution specifically constructed for the free public education of African American students in Trenton and among the earliest such schools built in New Jersey.
- The community petitioned the Board of Education to have Sarah A. Armstrong (a Black women) as the principal. She remained until her death 1870.



Henry Barnard (1811-1900)



John Thompson Nixon
(1820-1889)

- Henry Barnard was the first commissioner of Education for the United States and publisher of the American Journal of Education. He was a 19th century reformer and to promote harmonious social and civic behavior by revamping the US school system. His principles were used for the school's architecture, curriculum and lessons plans.
- The **Higbee School** was no exception – every student would have their own desk, desks arranged in a row and separate entrances for boys and girls.
- When the street name was changed to Bellevue Avenue, the **Higbee Street School** was changed to the **Nixon School** – named for Judge John T. Nixon.
- John Thompson Nixon was the Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. He was appointed to the position by President Ulysses S. Grant. He was from Bridgeton, New Jersey.

The Higbee Street School is distinguished among the state's few surviving schools for Black children because of its progressive design. In 1994 the building was deemed part of the National of Register Historic Places.

- In 1872, the Black student population outgrew the facility and they were moved into temporary quarters while the new **Ringold Street School** for Black students was under construction.
- The **Nixon School** became a school for White children.



Bellevue Avenue Colored School
Lincoln School



The King David Lodge No. 15 of Free and Accepted
Masons-Prince Hall Affiliation

- By 1883, the city's Black student population had outgrown the **Livingston School** (formerly the **Ringold Street School**) and a new building was erected at 81 Bellevue Ave, called the **Bellevue Avenue Colored School**.
- The school was build after the New Jersey Legislature passed the **School Desegregation Act of 1881**, which allowed Black parents the option of enrolling their children in previously White only Schools.
- The school was expanded in 1888 and renamed **Lincoln School** in 1891.
- This building remains an integral part the Black community to this very day, home of The King David Lodge No. 15 of Free and Accepted Masons-Prince Hall Affiliation.



Lincoln School on Bellevue Avenue and baseball on Church Street

This photograph is from an article I found at the Trentoniana at the Trenton Free Public Library. It was taken from the Trenton Times in the Then and Now section by Sally Lane, dated February 17, 1985.

She starts out by saying “one of the drawbacks is the number of subjects I never write about, simply because appropriate pictures don’t come my way. As I have mentioned before, it’s not hard to reconstruct the lives of rich people, who are more often photographed and more often written about than people of lesser means. In Trenton which for a century has been rich in immigrants, we lack the pictures to prove it. While contemporary newspapers routinely carry stories of ethnic events, photographs aren’t wasted on them. And while pictures may well have been taken, their owners don’t think them important enough to donate to the Trentoniana collection of the Trenton Free Public Library.

The picture depicted here was one of such pictures at was actually from at a flea market that bore the words “Field, Church St., Trenton, NJ.”

The article then went on about Lincoln School on Bellevue, which was from the Trenton Times of Saturday, April 17, 1909.

Facts of that article revealed:

- *Lincoln's principal at that time was Spencer P. Irwin. This writer was quite amazed that the article focuses on a black man and he was accorded the same style given to a white man. The caption read "Spencer P. Irvin, Principal of Lincoln School, Working Under Adverse Circumstances but with Real Love for the Cause of Education and Improvement of His People."*
- *Another quote: "If one school in Trenton needs fostering more than another, it is the Lincoln School on Bellevue Avenue devoted exclusively to education of negro children....."*

Mr. Irwin:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • <i>Was in his 26th year of being principal at Lincoln School.</i> | • <i>Son was a physician in Phila. for 5 years – claimed by death.</i> |
| • <i>An educator for 36 yrs. – 10 years at the Harrisburg School – 54 years of age.</i> | • <i>A favorite among the children because of his fatherly interest he takes in them.</i> |
| • <i>Married – wife taught in Camden prior to marriage.</i> | • <i>He was not a resident of Trenton. Traveled to Phila. daily.</i> |

With the opening of Junior No. 1 in 1916

- The **Nixon School** was returned to educating Negro children and the **Nixon and Lincoln Schools** were combined.
- The main building of the **Lincoln School** by order of the Board had been thoroughly remodeled during the summer vacation.
- The School's seventh and eighth graders were to go to the new **Junior No. 1** on Princeton Avenue. This school admitted African American students until the **New Lincoln School** opened in 1924.
- The third through the sixth grade would be at the **Lincoln School** and it was anticipated that 160 pupils would be enrolled.
- The **Nixon School** would have kindergarten through second grade.
- The **Nixon School** would close in 1923 with the opening of the **New Lincoln School** and become a repair shop for the school district in 1925.



The Eclectic Club had rooms in the upper floors of this commercial building at 4-6 Broad Street from c.1877-1915.

- Black residents founded a number of social clubs and service organization, as well several new churches, during the 19th and 20th centuries. One of the most interesting of these groups was the Eclectic Club, founded in 1877 by the city's elite. With rooms in a commercial building on North Board Street, the club hosted social events and guest speakers, such national leaders as Frederick Douglas.
- At the turn of the 20th century, Trenton's African American population numbered 2,158 people. Black residents represented less then three percent of the city's total population up to that point.
- Despite its minority status, the Black community was on the verge of a population explosion of its own. During and after World War I, the Great Migration brought thousands of African Americans from the rural South to the industrial Northeast and urban areas throughout the United States in search of job opportunities and greater freedom. In Trenton, this migration led to substantial increases in the African American population, from 2,500 in 1910 to more than 8,000 in 1930. New residents came from every Southern state, but the largest numbers arrived from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



- 1917 the **Carroll Robbins School** on Tyler St., previously the **Hewitt Training School for Teachers**, was opened as **Junior No. 2**.
- Used as **Junior No. 2** until 1925.
- In 1926 the former **Junior No. 2** students were sent to the newly opened **Junior No.4**.



Escher Street School on Jefferson Street

- **Escher Street School** opened in 1917 as a third school for colored students.
- The school would contain 4 class rooms and a kindergarten room larger than any other in the city.
- In 1918 the city buys the former Reister Hall building from Rudolph Kuser for \$12,000
- The school closes in 1923 with the opening of the **New Lincoln School**.

- Dr. Bickett became Superintendent of Schools just after 1919. He was aggressive in planning for the educational system in the city. Especially since the adoption of the plan for Junior High Schools to include grades seven to ninth grade. Within a few years three new schools would open.



New Lincoln School



Arthur T. Long, first Principal
of the New Lincoln School,
1923

- A site of thirty-six acres, on Chambers Street, between Hamilton and Greenwood Avenues, was purchased in 1922 for the location of a new Senior High School.
- The New Lincoln School was erected in 1923, the fourth and final school building constructed exclusively for the education of African American children in Trenton. It is located on North Montgomery Street on a site of four and a half acres.
- Designed by consulting Architect Ernest Sibley and Associates Architect William Slack and Son, the school was Italian Renaissance design.
- The school was built for 1,200 students, it contained both junior and elementary students.
- The first principal to head the school was Arthur T. Long of Indianapolis, Indiana.



Junior No. 3



Junior No. 4

- Then in 1924 **Junior High School No. 3** was built on a site of seven acres plot owned by the city on West State Street and Parkside Avenue.
- In 1926 **Junior High School No. 4** on a site of eight acres on Dayton and Grand Streets.
- By 1928, the **New Lincoln School** could no longer accommodated the city's population of African American children. A ten room addition for elementary for elementary students in the 1930's.

As the Black population grew, community members began to agitate for equal treatment under the law, particularly in the city schools.



Trenton Central High School - 1932

- When the new **Trenton Central High School** opened in 1932, the school accepted both White and Black students, as had its predecessor. Problems arose quickly around the segregated swimming pool.



Trenton Central High School Pool - 1932

Negro pupils were being made “race conscious” by the refusal of athletic officials at the new **Central High School** to permit them to take the prescribed swimming class work with their classes the a Negro delegation presented to the school board on March 3, 1932, two months after the school opened.

Contending that such action would provoke strife and conflict, board members refused to take action. They said they feared it would in time mean the closing of the pool to all students.

“It is a situation over which we have no control.” John P. Dullard told the Negro delegation. “This board cannot regulate public opinion and while the condition is not ideal it is the only practical one. You man only stir up a social war which would do further harm to your people.”

Colored pupils alleged that they were advised directly and indirectly by certain home-room teachers and athletic officials that their period for taking the regular prescribed swimming classes, but on Friday afternoons, during what we understand to know as the instructional period.

This ruling was carried over into the extra-curricular activities of the school, to the extent that colored athletes after competing in athletic events or after training for those events are not permitted to take a plunge in the pool afterwards, as were their white fellow contestants”

Mr. Dullard asserted that he could not see how the colored pupil was being deprived of any of the education advantages.

“As for race consciousness, you know as well as I do that it is something you cannot overcome, “ he added. “Personally, I don’t see the difference in swimming on Wednesday or Friday.”

Attorney Queen replied that “Americanism should be exhibited in this case. We are Americans and we have made sacrifices as well as the white man. Why shouldn’t we be entitled to privileges?”

Dr. Leroy Morries a member of the group who lived on Spring Street challenged the remark, however declaring that “there is a form of segregation in the system which the board condones.”

“You have no redress to the board, for we are governed by public opinion and we can not regulate it, said board member James E. Mitchell.

Attorney Queen asked the board to experiment for a month, allowing Negro pupils to swim with regular classes. “I think you’ll find that you’ll have public opinion behind you to sustain you,” he added.

“It would only stir up conflict and we would have to close down the pool.” Replied William A. Cooley, board president.

In 1933, Black leaders filed a lawsuit by the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to gain equal access to the pool, with Robert Queen as one of the attorneys.

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Black students. The case was a first step toward desegregating Trenton's public schools.

Trenton Central High School was razed in 2015 and a new building opened in 2020.



Junior No. 2

- Art Deco design, the architects P. L. Fowler Co and Louis S. Kaplan
- Built in 1939 and opened in 1940, it contained both junior high and elementary school students.
- The acting principal was Beekman Terhune for 789 pupils enrolled.
- The building was modern and well equipped.
- Built with Federal Government's PWA (Public Work Authority) assistance during the Great Depression, the building of the school provided much needed jobs for many local workers.



- In 1943 the New Junior High School No. 2 was a White school within the Trenton Public Schools segregated system, and the Lincoln School served the community's African American children.
- The four middle schools (Junior No. 1 – Junior No. 4), were attended exclusively by White students, and were spread throughout the city.
- All Black Students, from all over town were admitted only to Lincoln School. They had to travel from home to and school the best way that they could. Because of poverty, most walked, in all kinds of weather.
- The neighborhood surrounding the school (Junior No. 2) was integrated. The residents in the area were predominantly European immigrant population. Specially since Trenton was such an industrial town.

The Hedgepeth, Williams and Snyder families were part of the neighborhood. Their children Janet, Leon and Delores, had been playmates and classmates through sixth grade. In the fall of 1943, they were all rising seventh graders and applied for admission to **Junior No 2**. Delores was white, was admitted, but Janet and Leon, were turned away by the school secretary. Their mothers appealed the decision, which was first ignored, then turned down by the school principal, then turn down by school superintendent, and finally by the Trenton Board of Education.



L to R: Mrs. Berline Williams, Robert Queen, Esq., Leon Williams, Mrs. Gladys Hedgepeth, and Janet Hedgepeth

- Mrs. Gladys Hedgepeth and Mrs. Berline Williams, filed suit, with local NAACP attorney Robert Queen litigating the case. **Mr. Queen discovered the New Jersey Law of 1881 that was never enforced (law that prohibited racism).**

- Dr. Paul Loser, the superintendent, proudly testified that **Junior No. 2** had not been built for “Negros” and claimed that “Negros” were better off when separated from Whites’.
- The New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously disagreed! On January 31, 1944, the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered that Trenton Public Schools could not deny enrollment based on race.
- The Hedgepeth and Williams children were subsequently admitted to **Junior No. 2**, and about 200 other African American students also transferred from the Lincoln School to formerly White middle schools in their district.
- The decision served as a legal precedent for the United States Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education decision. This was the beginning of integration of the schools in Trenton, then spread aboard.

TELEPHONE 245-W

RESIDENCE PHONE 4810

Bondy Director

ROBERT QUEEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW
TRIPLEX BUILDING
9 EAST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N. J.

October 12, 1923.

Mr. Charles A. Green, Gen. Sec'y,

Central Y. M. C. A.,

Trenton, N. J.

Dear Mr. Green:

Some time ago our committee called on the Board of Education with reference to securing Lincoln School for Y. M. C. A. ^{purpose} Rev. John A. White being spokesman for the party. At that time the matter was referred to the committee on building and grounds. Just recently I met a member of that committee and he stated that while they had not reported as yet he could tell me that there was no immediate intention of abandoning Lincoln School nor had they come to any final conclusion as to whether or not they would use it after the new school is ready.

It seems, therefore, that we are losing time waiting for the school proposition to materialize and I would be glad if your committee would consider some other proposition that would tend to lead to quicker results. I am sure that we are ready to go ahead or cooperate as may be best.

Yours respectfully,

Robert Queen

RQ/LBJ

via US Mail



- For thirty-eight years the school functioned as one unit. The elementary division served the immediate neighborhood, but there were special classes for the visually impaired and handicapped children who were bused to school.
- In 1977, the elementary school became a separate unit with its own administration. The elementary school was named for **Paul Roberson**.
- In 1993 Trenton Board of Education honored these ordinary mothers, by renaming **Junior No. 2** to **Hedgepath-Williams School**.

Through the Hedgepeth and Williams decision, New Jersey required all of its public schools to admit African American and other children of color, thus neutralizing Pressy (Separate but Equal) in all New Jersey public schools, which formed the basis of the United States Supreme Court's Brown decision 10 years later.

Hedgepeth and Williams also influenced the passage of the 1947 State Constitution outlawing discrimination in all public affairs, which outlawed, "Separate but Equal" (Plessy) in all government agencies and in the NJ National Guard, 17 years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and did the same thing for the rest of the nation.

The 1947 Constitution also granted NJ citizens the right to a thorough and efficient education system; and generated the NJ Law Against discrimination arguably the strongest civil rights law in the Nation; which in turn established the NJ Department of Civil Service and the Department of Civil Rights; and provided the basis for the Discrimination Prohibition Law of 1974, which established Equality in Education Programs (Affirmative Action Programs) facilitating the elimination of discrimination among staff, students and educational programs in all of the State's public schools.



The New Lincoln School

The school was renamed **Junior No. 5** in 1945 when Trenton's schools were desegregated and opened in 1946 with both white and colored students. The principal was Patton J. Hill, an African American, He was one of the nation's first Black principals to serve a school with white students.

- Mr. Hill was from Coffeyville, Kanas.
- He attended Indiana University, A.B., MA 1934, Candidate for Ph.D. at NYU.
- Principal of several schools in West Virginia & Kentucky.
- He was principal at Lincoln School since November 6, 1933, until his retirement in 1958.

During an interview with a newspaper columnist, he was reported to have said his favorite sport was Football. Another question asked was "How do you spend leisure time? He replied, "I'm active in the American Legion and helping children prepare for college".

At the time of integration, he was active with preparing his students for the change.

Our Negro Heritage

Just three hundred and twenty years ago
Came a people from Africa called the
Negro.

They were brought as slaves – powerless-
but still

There was within them the strength and
will

To fight for their freedom in such a way
That they have gained most of it today.
They have proved on the stage and in
other fields too

That they can do as well as any can do.

To prove the truth of what I say,

Here are examples we know today:

George Washington Carver was but a
slave;

But look what a great name in science he
made.

Marian Anderson scrubbed floors and
washed walls;

But now she sings in Carnegie Hall.

Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber-Boy, how he
can hit!

He knocked out Bill Conn with just one
lick.

The Negro has come a long, long way
In order to be what he is today.

- Clara Patillo, 8-1



City Basketball Champs, Junior No. 5 School 1946

First Row, left to right – Joshua Baylor, William Mason, William Kinsey, Jesse Dunn, and Paul Graham

Second Row, left to right – James Way, assistant manager; Harold Rivers, Elijah Sapp, Milton Berry, Clarence Murphy, William James, Ameal Carter, Leonard Williams, Charles Davis, manager, and Coach Gilliam.



Principal Patton J. Hill (center) became the first black principal to head an integrated school in the city after the historic 1943 State Supreme Court Decision to abolish racial segregation in the city. Above, Hill smiles as the Patton Hill Elementary School on East State Street is dedicated in his name.

- An elementary school on East State Street was named for him in 1972, **Patton Hill Elementary School**.
- It is recorded in the Trenton Times (dated 3/1/2003) during an alumnus revisited: Elizabeth Lacy, remembers the day in 1946 when **Junior No. 5** opened its doors to children of all colors. Mr. Hill guided the school through a seamless transition. “He was a peaceful person and not excitable. He had the ability to counsel and mediate. He was a person that demanded respect by his demeanor”.
- **Junior No. 5** elementary school was renamed the **Louis Munoz-Rivera** in 1977, and today the **Luis Munoz Rivera Community Middle School**.

PUPIL ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION
as of 30 September 1972

	White	Black	Spanish	Other	Am. Ind.	% White	% Black	% Spanish	% Other	% Am. Ind.	Total
Jr. #1 Elem.		25	2				93	7			27
Jr. #2 Elem.	310	348	79			42	47	8			737
Jr. #3 Elem.	86	300	6			22	77	1			392
Jr. #4 Elem.											
Jr. #5 Elem.	8	441	42			2	90	8			491
Junior #1	50	980	37	3		5	91	3	1		1070
Junior #2	219	509	60			27	65	8			788
Junior #3	44	834	48	3	2	4	89	5	1	1	931
Junior #4	591	191	104	1	3	66	21	11	1	1	890
Junior #5	13	368	110			3	75	22			491
TCHS	751	2059	189		2	25	68	6		1	3001
TOTAL District	3810	11893	1541	19	8	22	69	9			17271

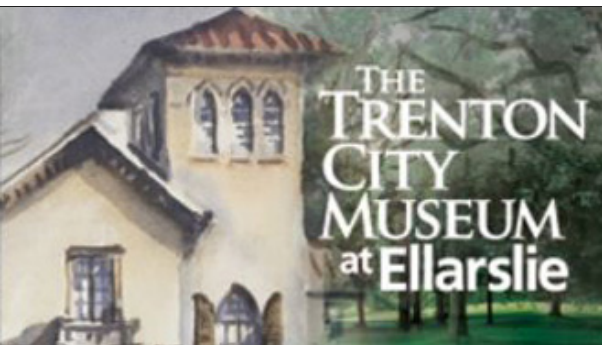
TEACHER ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION
as of 30 September 1972

	White	Black	Spanish	Other		% White	% Black	% Spanish	% Other		Total
Jr. #1 Elem.	1					100					1
Jr. #2 Elem.	21	6				78	22				27
Jr. #3 Elem.	9	2				82	18				11
Jr. #4 Elem.											
Jr. #5 Elem.	8	11				42	58				19
Junior #1	27	29				48	52		1		56
Junior #2	40	9				82	18				49
Junior #3	14	44				24	76				58
Junior #4	49	7		2		85	12		3		58
Junior #5	13	19				41	59				32
TCHS	70	41	1		2	62	37	1			112
TOTAL District	500	286	4	2		62	36	1			792



Ernest Williams is keeping the,
legacy of the Hedgepeth Williams
case alive.

Questions?



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

Photographing the
Decaying Junior No. 1



J. Carlos Vargas
(exterior)



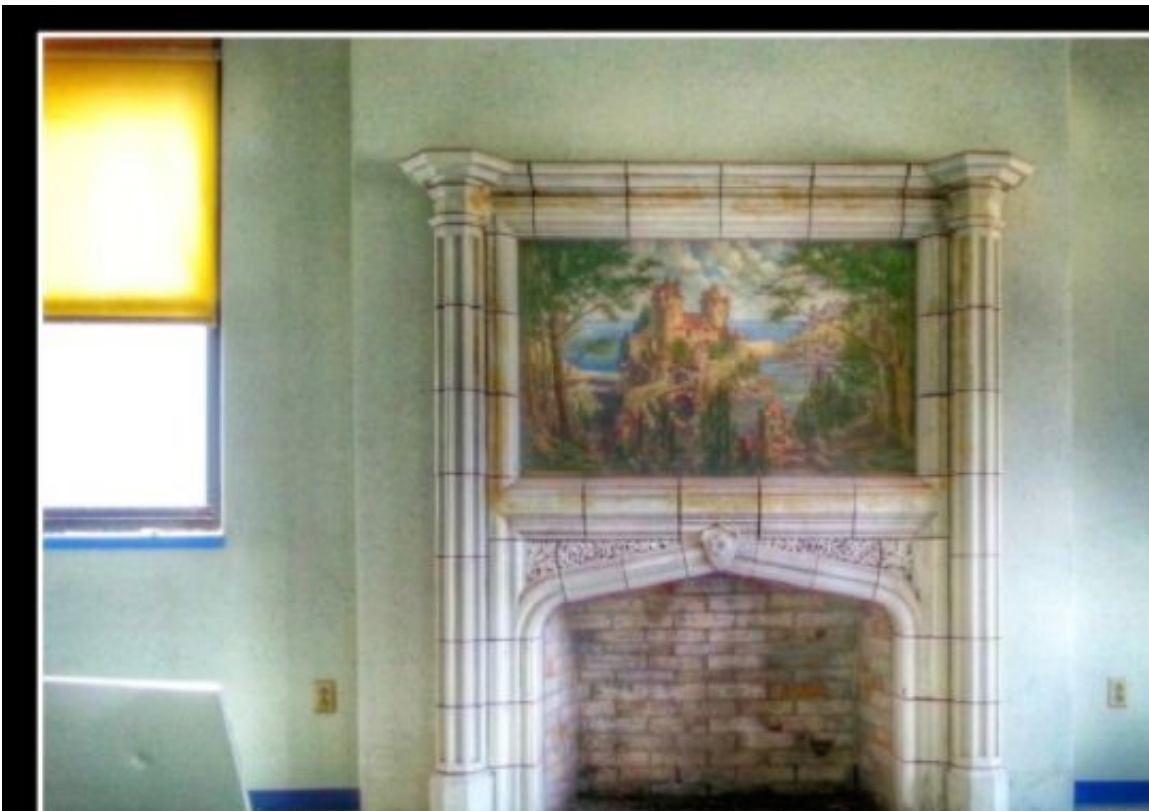
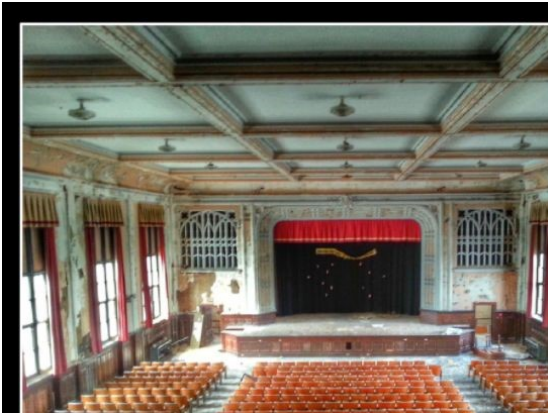
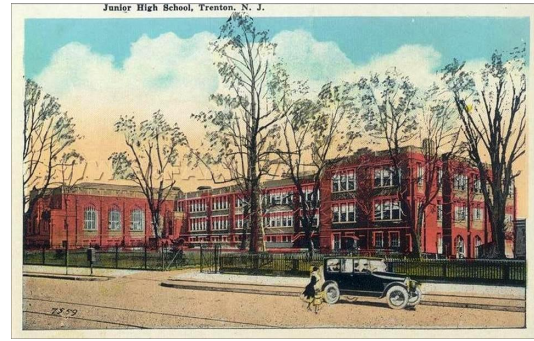
Robert J. Sammons
(interior)

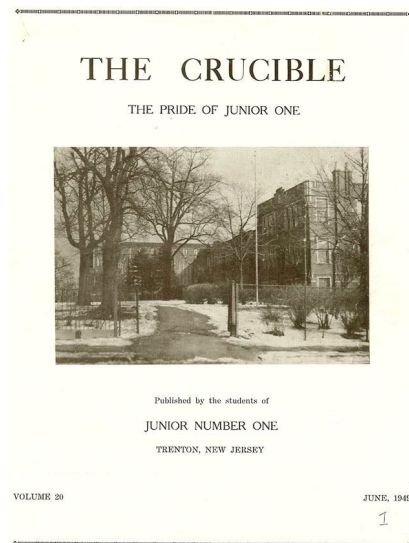
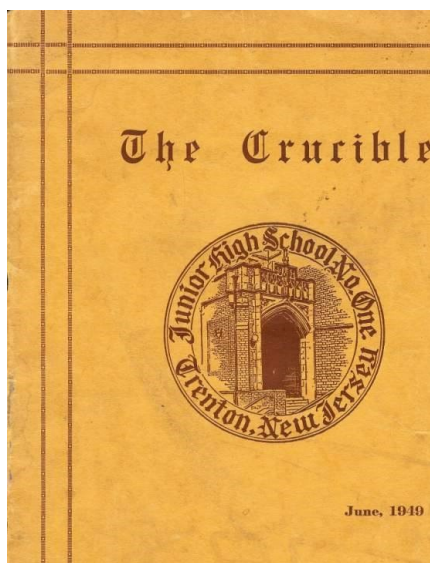
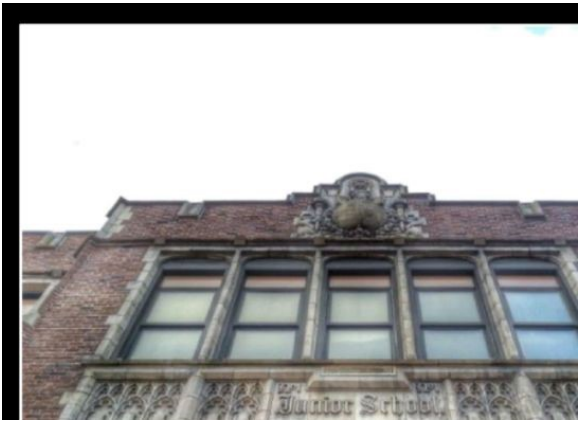


Trenton's Junior 1 was the first junior high school to be built in the East.











Front of Trenton Junior No. 1, Postcard, 1916

TRENTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NO. 1

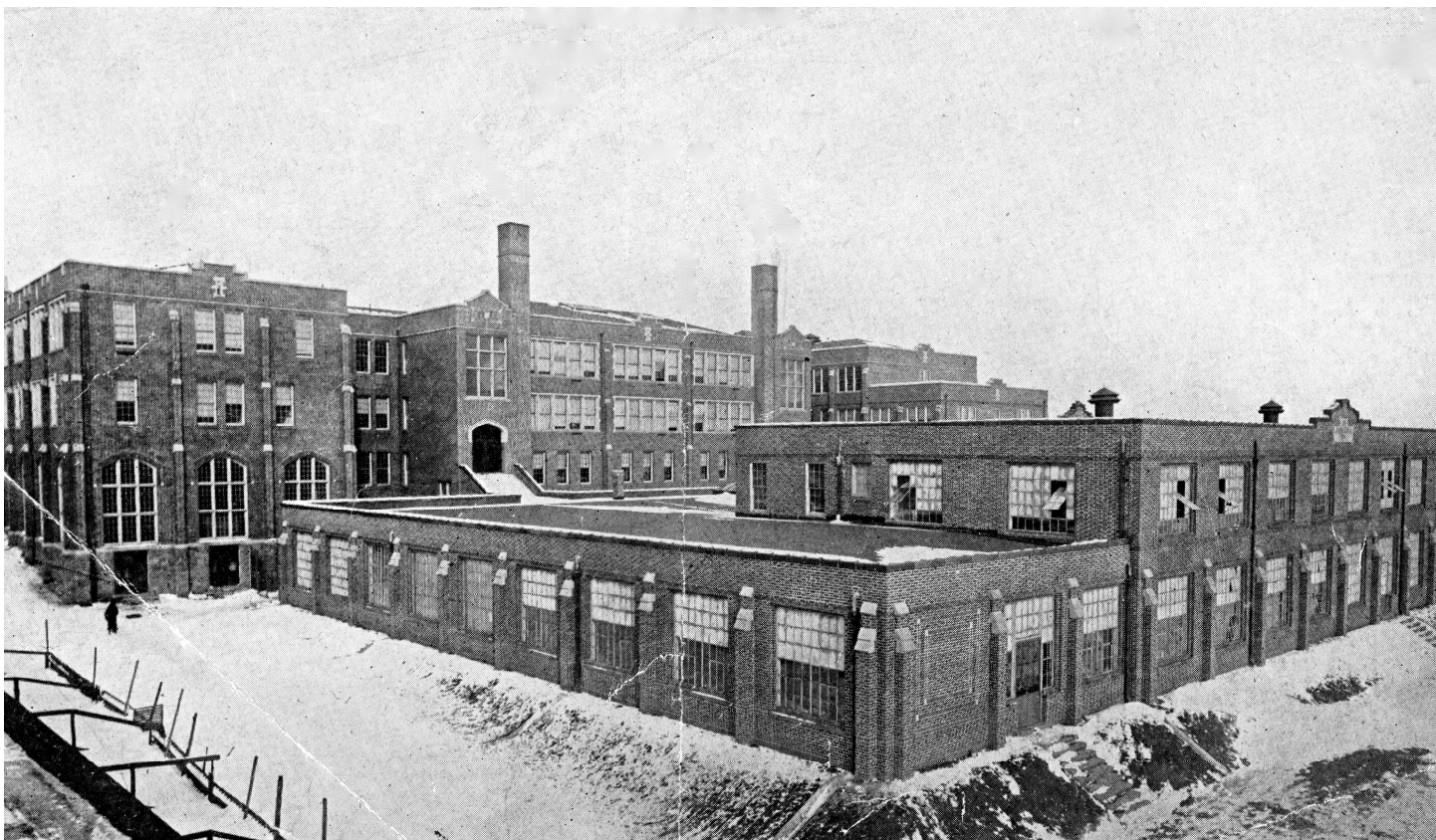
Introduction

Since the dedication of the Trenton Junior High School No. 1 more than a century ago no one could have imagined the demographical, financial, and educational shifts that would occur in Trenton, NJ since 1916 when the school was established. To tell a story of Junior High School No. 1 over its 90 year lifespan and the 15 years since its closure is to compile a glimpse into some of the factors of what the building itself witnessed over the decades and look at the conditions affecting the students who attended, who lived in the neighborhood, who taught and who carry the first hand knowledge of its halls. The two years prior to its commencement, those who were responsible for its inception and planning took into consideration what they could afford, the pedagogical changes that were being considered nationwide and the urgency to provide a better educational system for future generations.

The ideals of education in 1916 highlighted academic, industrial and commercial skills. This newly established model of education was a gateway and an important foun-

dation of skills that would prepare students to be best equipped for the workforce. Being at the forefront of the Junior School Movement, there were countless additions and removal to the original blueprints

of the school that adapted with the growing needs of the student population, as well as the way that the city itself faced the aftermath of WWII, segregation and desegregation, urban renewal and moved away from the Junior High School as a model for education nationally. The importance of Trenton Junior High No. 1 and its eventual renaming and restructuring systematically to Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School highlights how significant the change has been in Trenton, as well as many other post-industrial cities. We hope that this exhibition will bring to light the stories and voices never before documented and become a collective historical record of the thousands of students that were part of these changes and to make sure that future generations learn from this history.



Back of Trenton Junior No. 1, Postcard, 1916

The Cornerstone of Education on the East Coast

Between 1916 and 1935, there was a continuity within the local government within Trenton, as well as with the Board of Education and the administrative bodies for the citywide educational system. Meaning that there were few changes in those who were in power both in the city commission form of government and Trenton's long term tenure of Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly. While, the nepotism and strong hold of power existed in the city, this continuity did signify that the policies that were in place stayed primarily the same as during the dedication of the building. The school was certainly affected by the Great Depression and the coming of WWII, yet the initial framework of the Junior High Movement was relatively similar to how the educational layout was when the cornerstone was laid in 1916.



Photo by Karl J Flesch

The cornerstone held the documents of the clandestine and keepers of the city a century ago and the reasons that motivated them to build it in the first place outside of the educational need.

The emphasis of schooling was Latin, math, grammar, to name a few. In 1917, there was a prominent Math Conference held in Trenton that sought to look at the guiding principles that students should be learning and how math is part of every facet of society, no matter if a girl or boy would be entering into the workforce or needing it to help at home. These fundamental concepts were the core part of education and a model of what every 7th, 8th, and 9th grader should know before entering the halls of the high school.



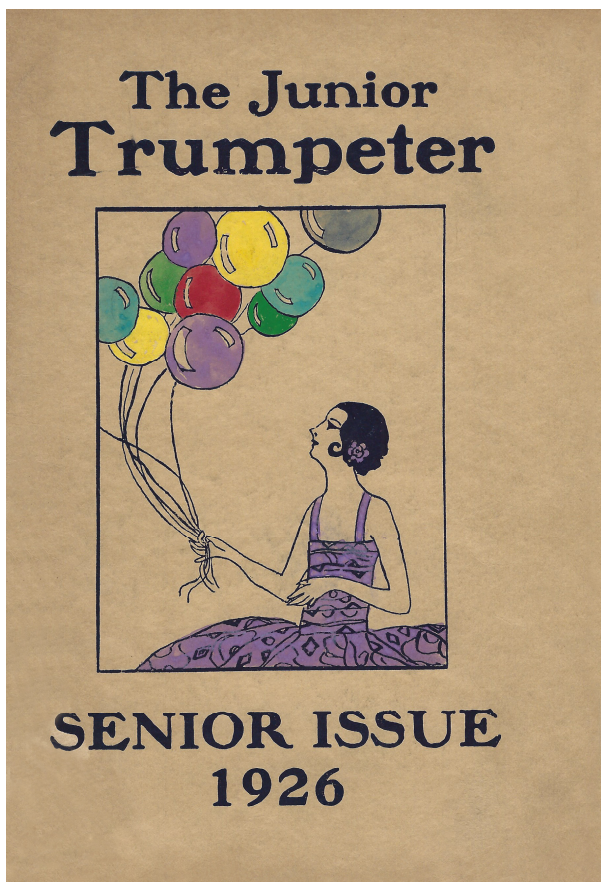
Photo by J. Carlos Vargas

Separated into the boys and girls section of the school the curriculum was split into gendered disciplines, similar to what occurs in parochial and private school. Though this was a public school, these divisions were common at the time

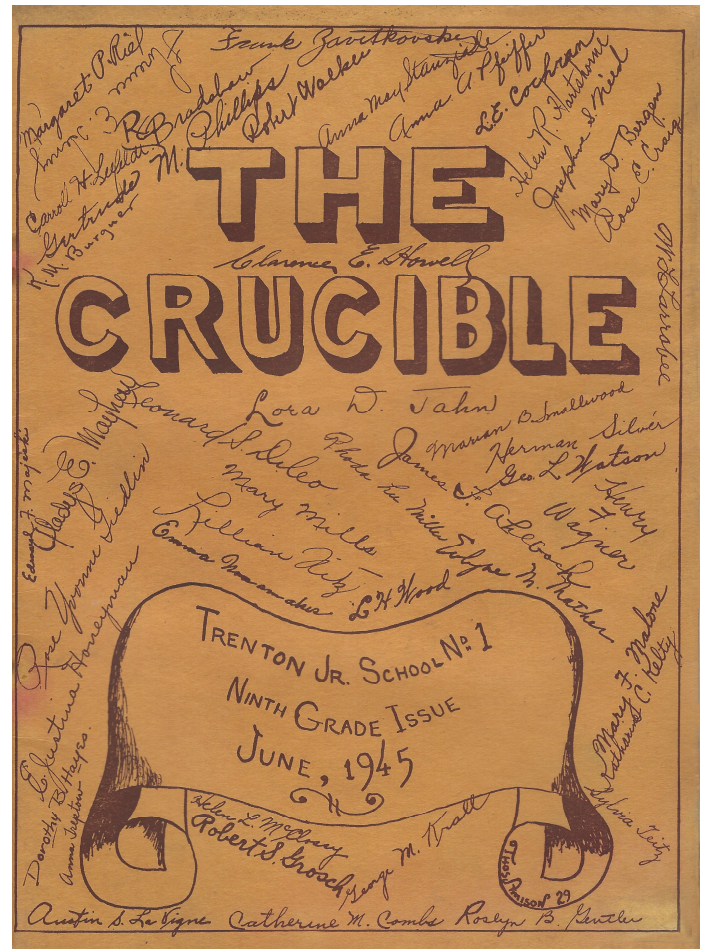
and the boys and girls even had separate entrances. to go into the facility itself.



Junior High and Middle School are that transitory moment in a student's life where they begin to establish critical and creative reasoning, try new activities and learn how to find their individual voices amongst their peers. Whether at Trenton Junior High No. 1 or at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle Schools, much of these same awkward moments are shared over its 90 year legacy in Trenton. Finding school spirit and joining extracurricular activities have been a constant. Looking back at Junior High No. 1, we discovered that the yearbook in the 1920's was called The Junior Trumpeter, by the mid 1940's was reestablished as The Crucible. med Dr. Martin Luther King , Jr. Middle School in 1990



From the Collection of Richard Willinger



From the Collection of Richard Willinger

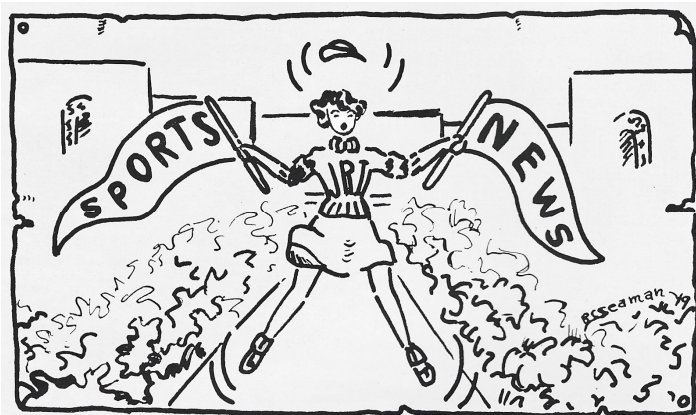
Music appreciation and performance was also another element that was significant to student learning. Whether they were at a sports function or part of an assembly at school, music prominent in the curriculum. Early on at Junior High No. 1, the pipe organ was a key feature of the building and very prominent during the first two decades



School Orchestra 1944-1945

of the building.

Seniors at the high school had launched a project to place a pipe organ in the new junior high school. Money was raised from the senior play, Children's May Festival, high school student donations, and proceeds from a high school supper.



There is no doubt that sports played a crucial role in facilitating school spirit and helping put the school on the map regionally, especially for basketball, baseball and soccer.



Here you can see a photograph of the girls basketball team from 1920, where they display the then customary sports wardrobe for girls.



Starting in 1917 the Trenton High School basketball team played at Junior No. 1's gym, Trenton's largest school gymnasium. Games were transferred to the new Junior No. 3 gym in 1925.

Segregation/Desegregation

Elementary schools in Trenton were segregated and by 1916 there were two elementary schools (Nixon and Lincoln) for Trenton's African-American students. The schools were located to be convenient to at least four-fifths of the African-American school children of the city. Those who lived a long distance away attended the other public elementary schools throughout the city.

African-American students did not initially attend the high school. It was not until 1894 that the Trenton Times reports that two African-American students graduated from Trenton High School.

The Trenton Times reported on August 25, 1916 that the Nixon and Lincoln schools were being combined for "colored" children and the seventh and eighth grades will go to the new junior high school.

However, in 1924 the city opened the New Lincoln School to be used by the city's African-American students. The school was the second of the all new junior high schools the city was to build and would accommodate both elementary and junior high school students. Junior No. 1 became an all white school.

It is interesting to note, that numerically, the New Lincoln School should have been named junior No. 3, but only after the desegregation of Trenton's schools does the school get renamed Junior No. 5.

The time period between Post-World War II to 1980 ushered in major urban renewal initiatives, civic unrest that would give birth to sweeping changes in the demographics of the city and historic legislative measures that would make it unconstitutional to discriminate based on the color of one's skin. Yet, the undoing years of segregation that permeated all levels of society and every system was not easy to desegregate.

Across from Junior No. 1 in 1940, the Mayor Donnelly Homes opens, containing low rent housing for 376 white families. The Lincoln Homes next to the New Lincoln School opened at the same time for non white residents.

Non Whites are allowed to rent In the Mayor Donnelly Homes starting in 1958, just prior to the new Federal fair housing laws.

In 1943 two African-American mothers, Gladys Hedgepeth and Berline WilliamsIt challenged Trenton's segregation of junior high school students and is win in 1944.

Trenton is forced to desegregate the school in the fall of 1945 and African-American students return to Junior No. 1.



Owl Mascot and School Colors: Brown and Gold

Changing Enrollment Numbers

Junior No. was built to accommodate 1,200 students, and opened in 1916 with 929 students.

In 1936, 1,414 students attended the school. According to a 1936 Fac Finding Study of Trenton School by the Trenton College Club, the average number of students per class room at Junior No. 1 had increased from the planned 30 pupils per room when the school was built to a planned average of 40 pupils per room . The policy resulted in insufficient floor space per pupil and inadequate ventilation. They stated that the 20 year old school need-

ed more modern equipment, new toilets and some repairs. Overall, they stated the school was one of the bright spots in the school system.

In 1955, there were 794 students enrolled at Junior No. 1.

In 1965 there were 517 junior high school students enrolled, and 56 sixth graders from the nearby Jefferson School to relieve overcrowding there. , 949 students enrolled in 1965 and 896 students in 1969.

Addition Added

The city wanted to build a new McClellan School off North Clinton Avenue between Fillmore, Poplar and Taylor Streets. However the plans were dropped in the face of opposition from the Trenton Branch of the NAACP. They objected to the building of a new school in a completely "Negro" neighborhood.

Instead the city decided to use the money for the new school to add additions to both Junior No. 1 and Junior No. 2. Junior No. 1, the only junior school without a pool, would get a pool and new cafeteria in 1965.

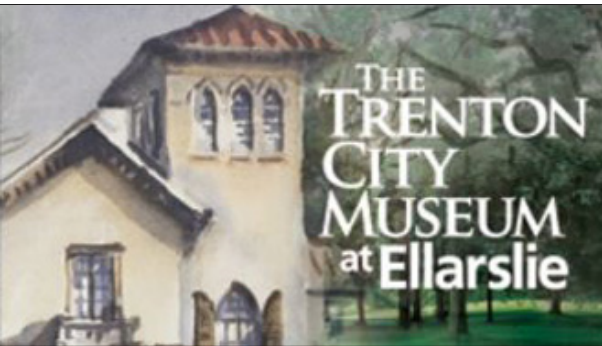
At the same time the city was looking at a proposal for a 30 room new junior high school to be built on North Clinton Avenue, backing up to the Miller Homes site.

STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS. STAY TUNED!

Junior High Movement Fades

As the model of education nationwide began to shift away from the Junior High Movement, Trenton also had to address how the new system of the Middle School Movement would be integrated into their school system. This would change the then widely used 7th, 8th and 9th grade, as an in between elementary school and high school and shift towards 6th, 7th and 8th grades for the new platform of learning.

Renaming the School Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

The Building of
Junior No. 1



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

January 7

The Junior High School Movement and the building of Trenton's other junior high school

January 21

Herman C. Mueller, School Board President and owner of the Mueller Mosaic Tile Company

February 4

The Segregation/Desegregation of Trenton Schools: Hedgepeth-Williams vs the Trenton Board of Education

February 18

Photographing the Decaying Junior No. 1 by J. Carlos Vargas (exterior) and Robert J. Sammons (interior)

February 25

William A Poland, Architect of Junior No. 1 and over 2,000 other buildings

March 4

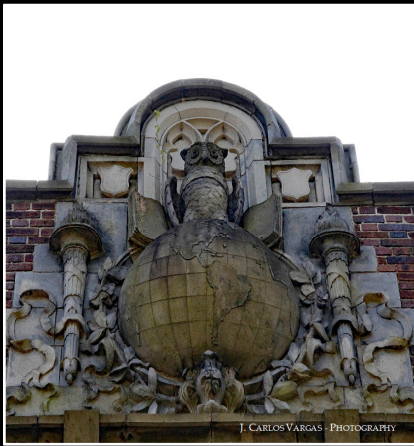
Junior No. 1 School Days – a talk with former Principal Albert Williams and teachers

March 18

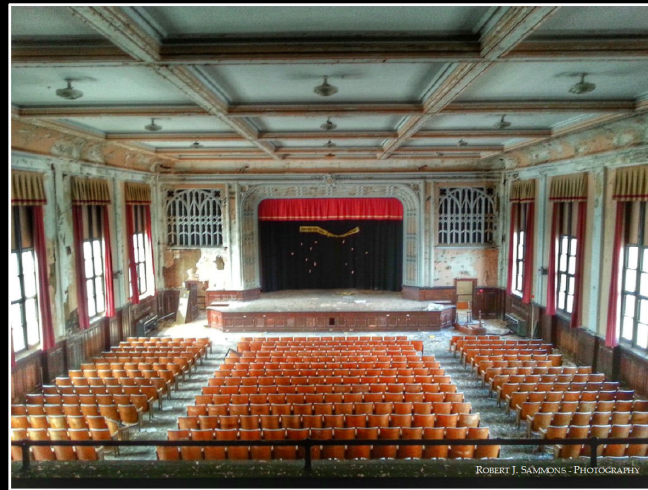
The 1916 Polio Epidemic and the Building of Trenton's Municipal Colony

ON THE FOREFRONT: Trenton's Junior No. 1, 1916

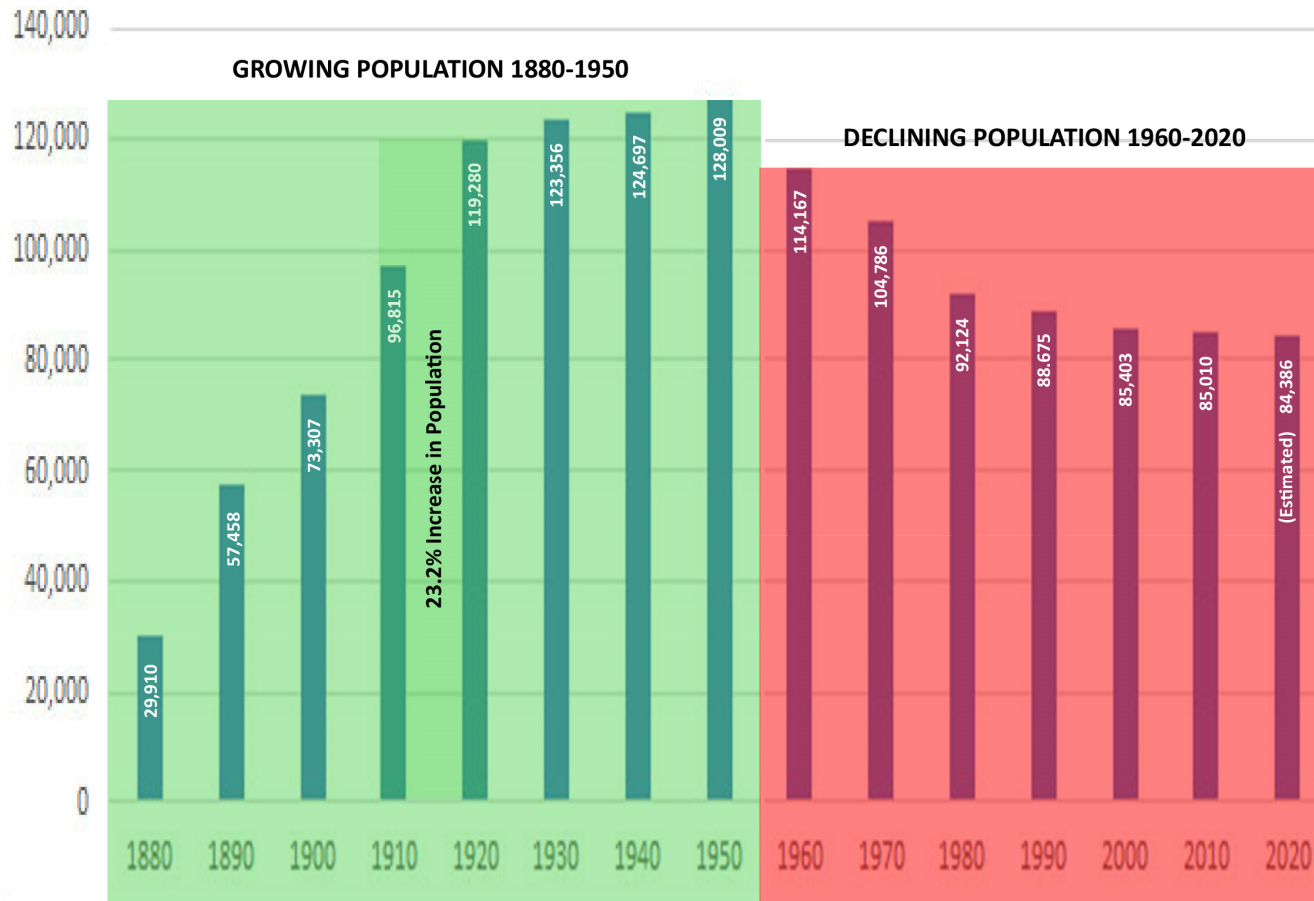
September 26, 2020 – April 25, 2021



The Owl—the school's mascot



US CENSUS POPULATION OF TRENTON 1880-2020



Trenton Schools were
Over Crowded

From 1900-1910
population increased from
73,707 to 96,816

Increase of 23,109 or 31%

From 1910-1920
population increased from
96,815 to 119,280

Increase of 22,465 or 23%

East Ward schools were
the most crowded

Key Players in Building the School:



Herman C. Mueller
Industrialist

President of the Mueller
Mosaic Company

School Board President
(1914-1918)

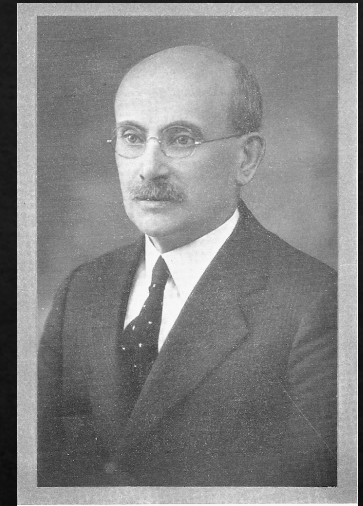


Frederick W.
Donnelly
Mayor of Trenton
(1911-1935)



William A.
Poland
Architect

Employed by
the School
Board
(1911-1935)



William A. Wetzel
Principal of
Trenton High
(1901-1935)

Briefly the first
Principal of Jr. 1

Adaption of the Junior High School Plan, 1914

Trenton Schools were arranged by 8 years of elementary school followed by 4 years of high school

- Training was in the direction of college for those who continued on to high school

In 1914 the School Board adopts the 6-6 or 6-3-3 plan

- Provides a more varied and effective education for students of the adolescent age.
- The seventh, eighth & ninth grades are to constitute the finishing touches of grammar school.
- The manual and domestic training is organized in large shops connected with the school.
- As young men and women are prepared for the high school, the foundation can also be laid for a technical career, so that they can go to a higher technical or artistic institution of learning.

The junior high school would offer three courses of study for boys and girls: Industrial, Commercial and Academic.

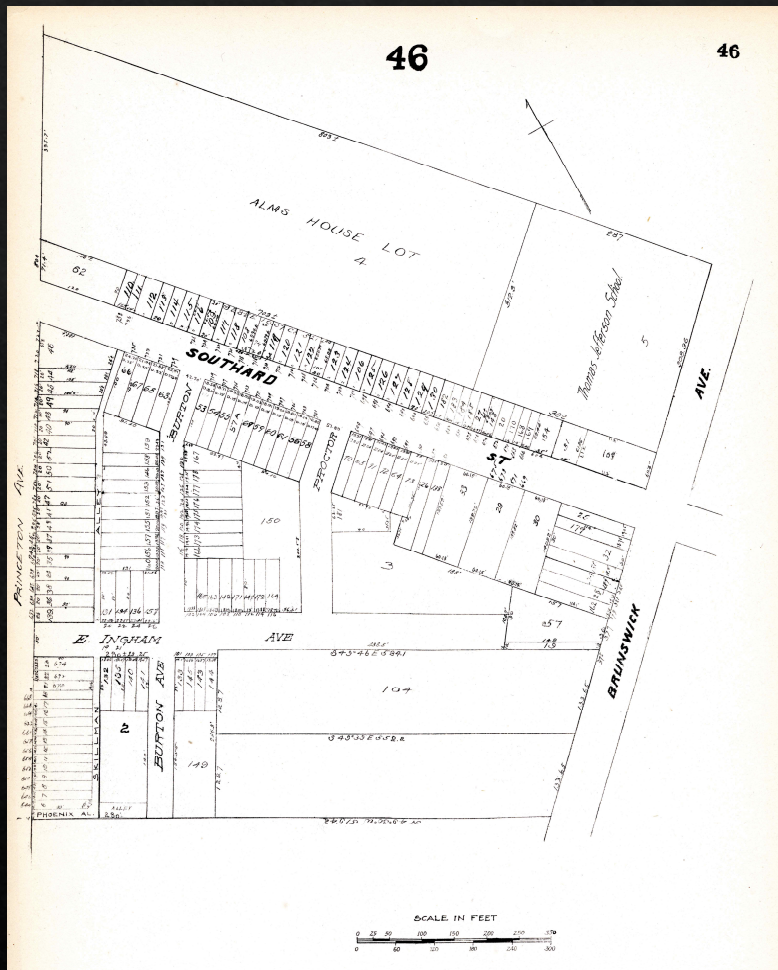
The Industrial Course includes the study of printing, elementary woodwork, freehand and mechanical drawing and manual training for the boys, and cooking, sewing and similar subjects for the girls.

The Commercial Course consists of the study of typewriting, bookkeeping and stenography.

The Academic Course includes the study of science, history, foreign languages, English, etc.

The junior high school grades would be ultimately be placed in new buildings planned with facilities for the new kind of education proposed.

The building of a new, modern high school to alleviate overcrowding would have to wait.



Almshouse (built 1871) Lot, formerly the Bower Farm

Properties Considered for sight of the Junior High School

Mueller advocated locating near the present high school at Hamilton and Chestnut Avenues:

- Steven's Plot at Greenwood and Chestnut Avenues
- Tam's property on Greenwood Avenue and Monmouth Street
- Exton plot on Greenwood Avenue
- Chambers' tract extending from Cook to Hampton Avenues*

A syndicate of landowners was being formed in the section known as the Swamp (bounded by Stockton, Montgomery, Feeder and Allen Streets) to offer some five to six acres. It could rid the city of a district that had been an eyesore from sanitary and sociological lines. Objections would be the closeness to a canal-feeder and railroad largely devoted to carrying coal & difficulty securing a good foundation for a basement.

- 1914 the school board decides to purchase the Almshouse property for \$21,000 and intends to purchase the Reeder Chambers' tract on Greenwood Avenue, using both sites for junior high schools. Construction of the second junior high school would not begin until the first is completed
- The Chambers' tract is the preferred site for the first junior high school.
- However the cost of \$5,000 an acre for the Chambers track is considered too high the tract is not purchased. The Almshouse site is chosen for the first junior high school.

Architect William A. Poland, Board of Education Business Manager prepares a plan for a 33 room structure.

Estimates of \$220,000 for the building and \$30,000-\$40,000 for equipment

On account of the slope of descent of the ground, the rear of the building will contain four stories, the lower floors forming a basement and subbasement.

Accommodations for 1,000 in the main building and 300 in the shops at the back of the building.

What Junior School Contains

SUB-BASEMENT

Boys' Gymnasium	Girls' Gymnasium
Boiler Room	
SHOPS	
Printing Room	Sewing Room (2), (Dyeing and Fitting Rooms
Domestic Science Rooms (2)	Metal Working Room
Manual Training, Wood Working Room (2)	Machine and Tool Room

BASEMENT

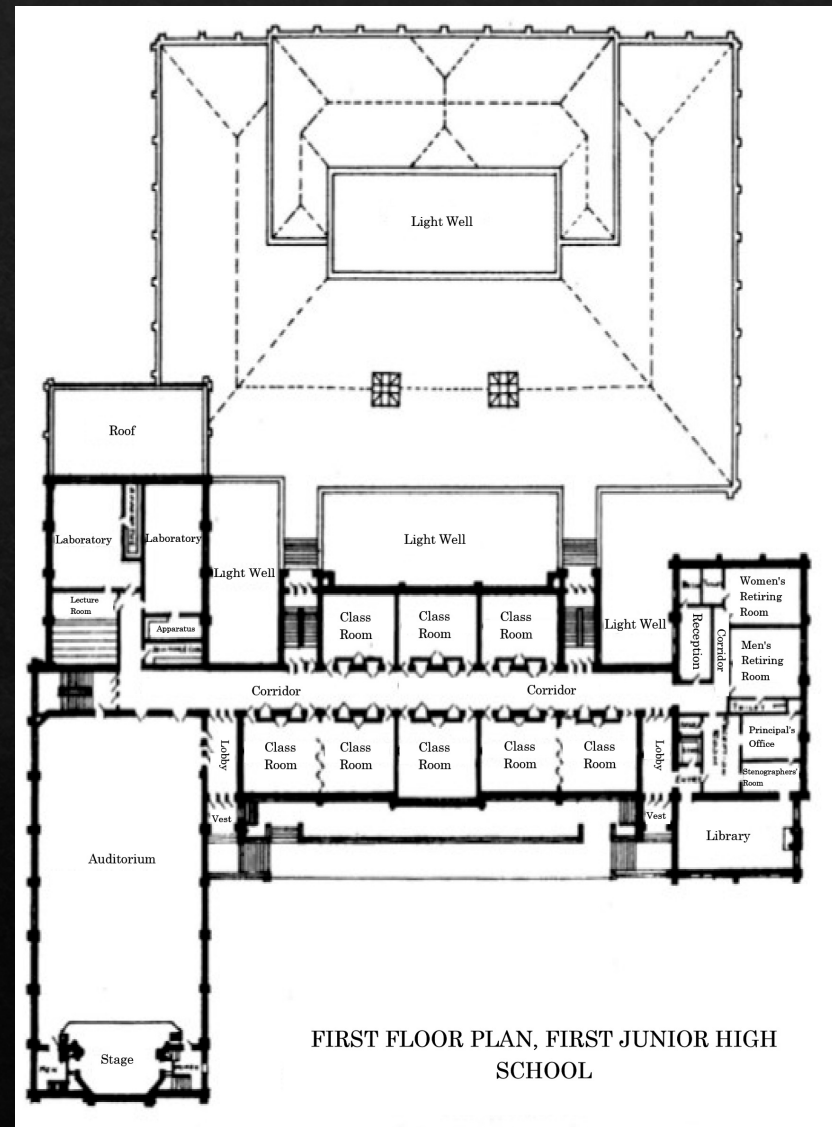
Boys' Drawing Room (2) (Blue Printing Rooms)	Boys' Lunch Room
Girls' Drawing Rooms (2)	Bicycle Racks
Kitchen	Girls' Locker, Toilet and Shower Rooms
Girls' Lunch Room	Boys' Locker, Toilet and Shower Rooms
Dressing Rooms under the stage	

FIRST FLOOR

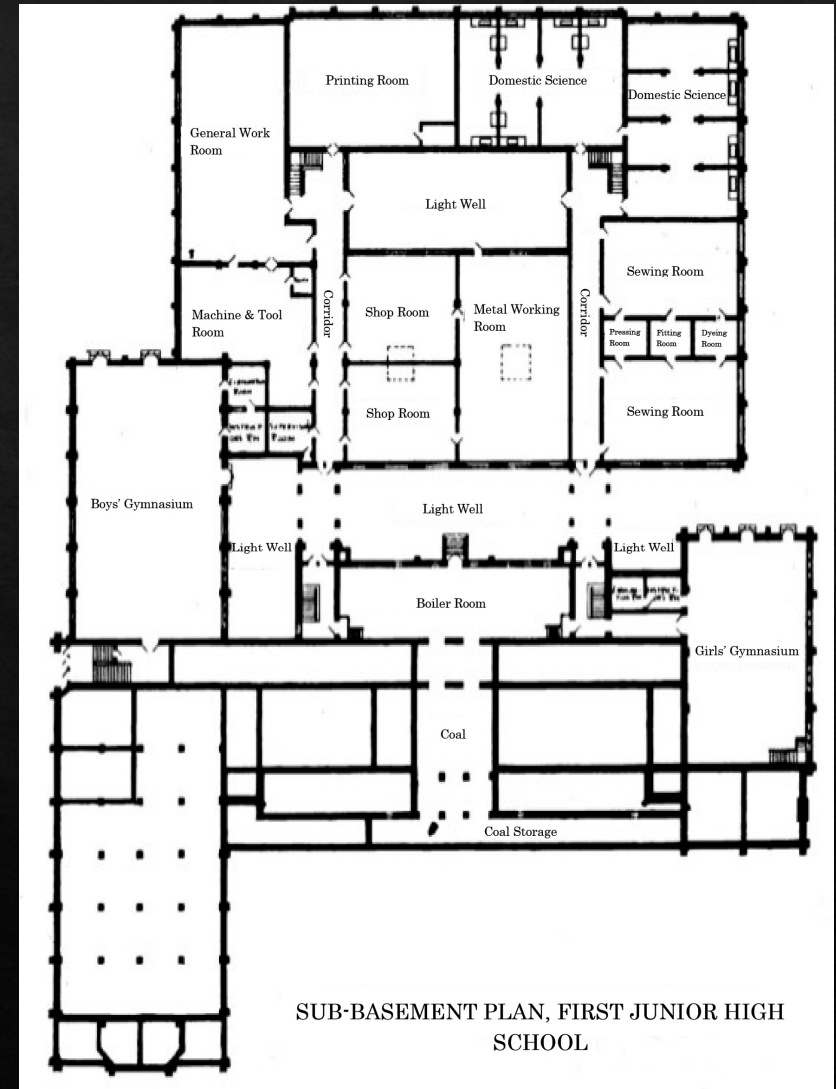
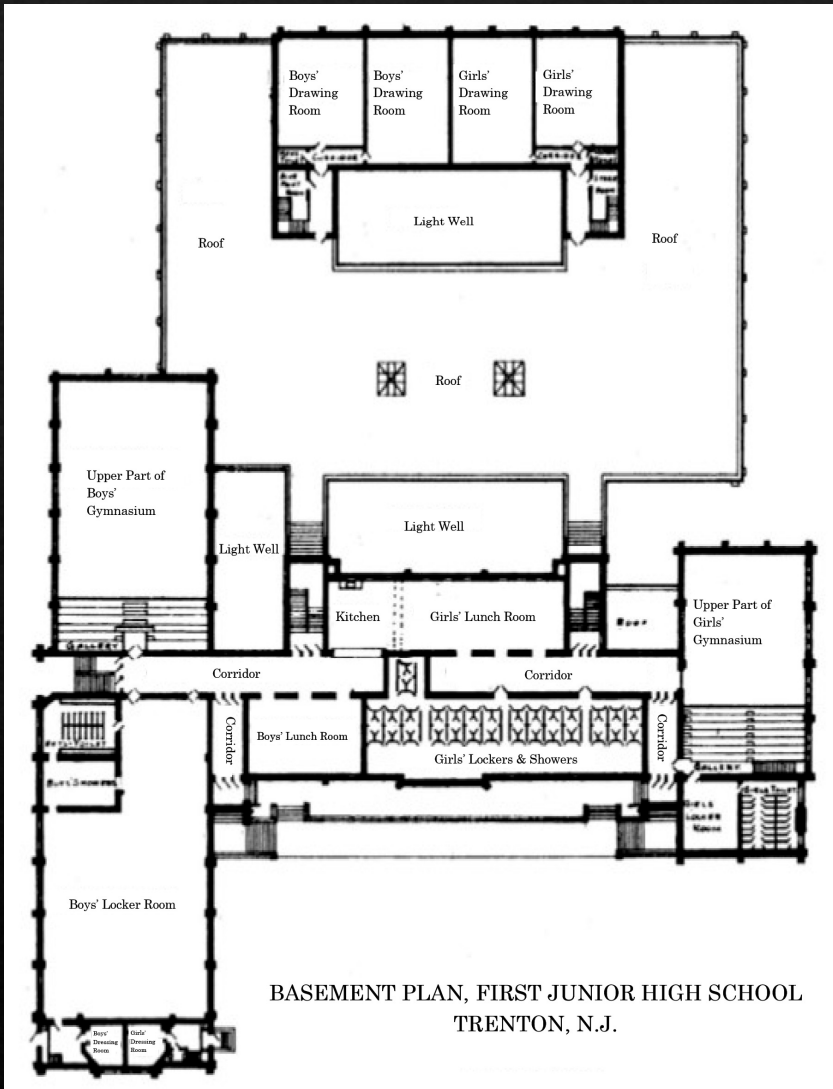
Laboratory (2)	Female Teachers' Retiring Room
Lecture Room	Library
Class Rooms (8)	Auditorium
Male Teachers' Retiring Room	Stage
Principal's Office, Reception Room and Stenographers' Room	

SECOND FLOOR

Class Rooms (10)	Lecture Room
Laboratories (2)	Boys' Toilets
Apparatus Room (2)	Girls' Toilets
Dark Room	
Organ Loft (provided for in case organ is purchased)	



FIRST FLOOR PLAN, FIRST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Work begins in early 1915, starting with the raising of the old Almshouse.

5,000 people attend the laying of the cornerstone on September 26, 1915.

Seniors at the high school launch a program to place a pipe organ in the auditorium, October 1915.

The Board of Education purchase the Van Syckle property at Greenwood and Chestnut Avenues for the construction of the second junior high school, January 1916.

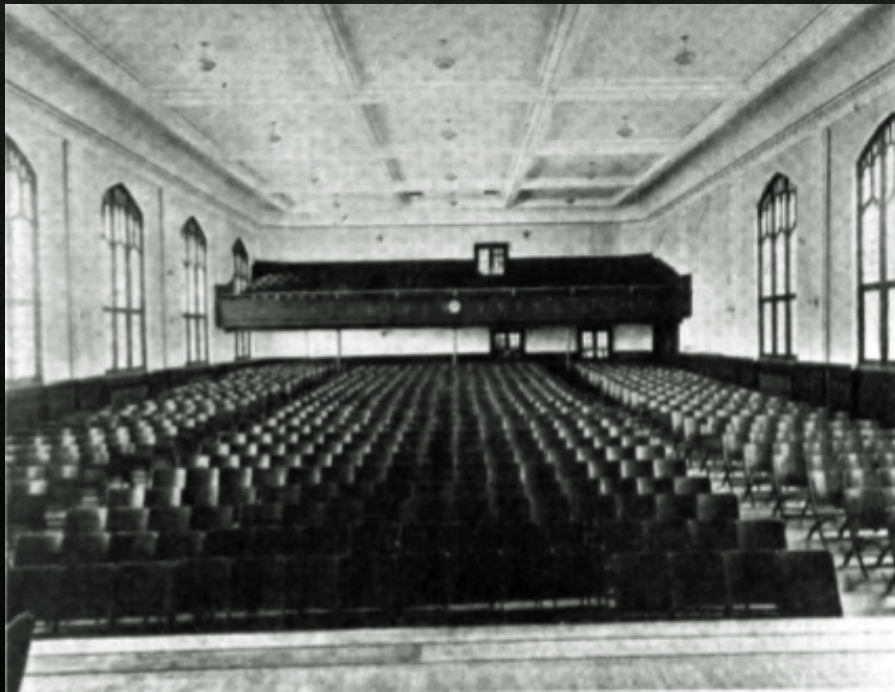
Residents of Southard Street whose property border on the grounds of the new junior high school complain about refuse being dumped upon the school grounds as fill, July 1916.

The Nixon and Lincoln schools are being combined for "colored" children, the seventh and eighth grades will go to the new junior high school, August 1916.



Junior No. 1 is completed on time for start of the school year in September, 1916.

However, due to the Infantile Paralysis (Polio) Epidemic sweeping the country, children are quarantined at the height of the epidemic. The school and all the schools in Trenton open on October 30, 1916.



Auditorium



Library



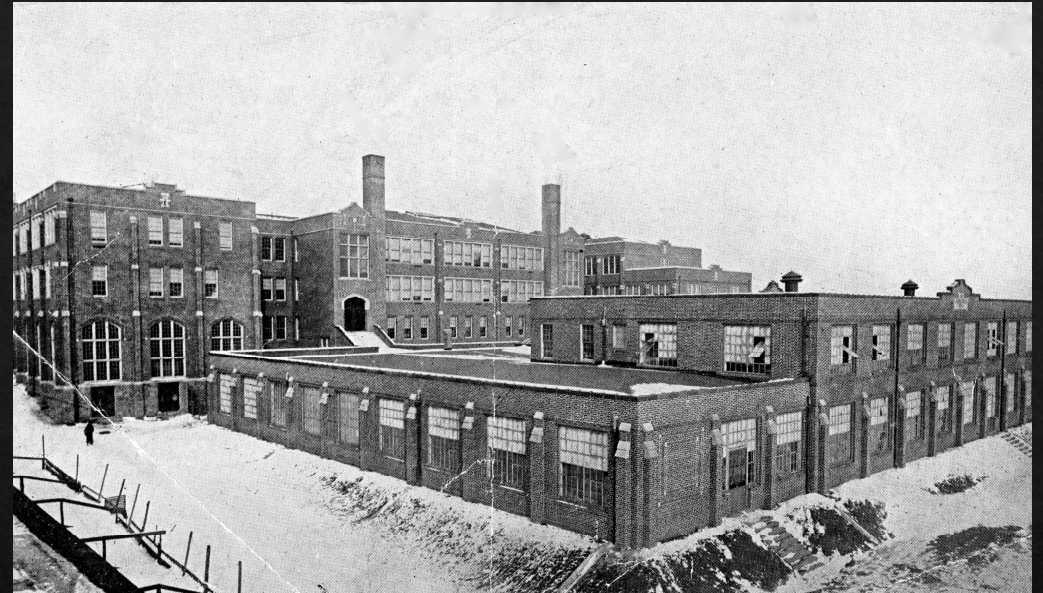
Manual Training



Domestic Science



Front of School (Auditorium)

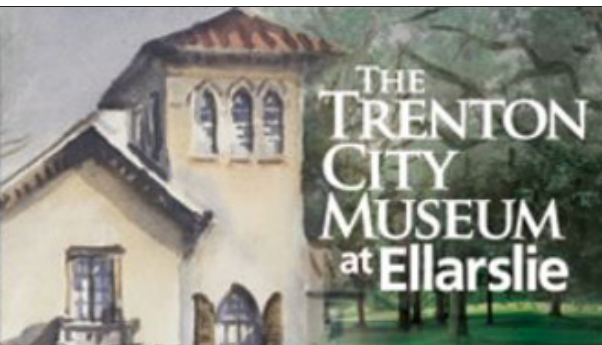


Rear of School (Shop Area)

The formal dedication of the school is delayed until December 7, 1917, with 3,000 people attending.

The school, the first junior high school in the east attracted the attention of educators, not only in NJ but in other state.

Several excellent musical numbers were played by Edward A. Mueller, son of Herman C. Mueller and an organist at the State Street Methodist Church, upon the pipe organ recently installed in the auditorium.



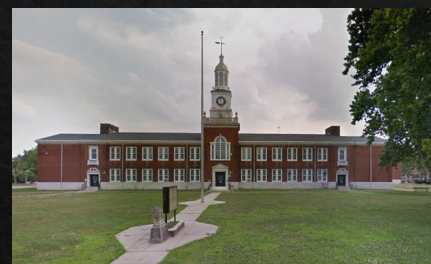
ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

Junior High School Movement

January 7, 2021 at 7pm

The Junior High School Movement and the
building of Trenton's other junior high school

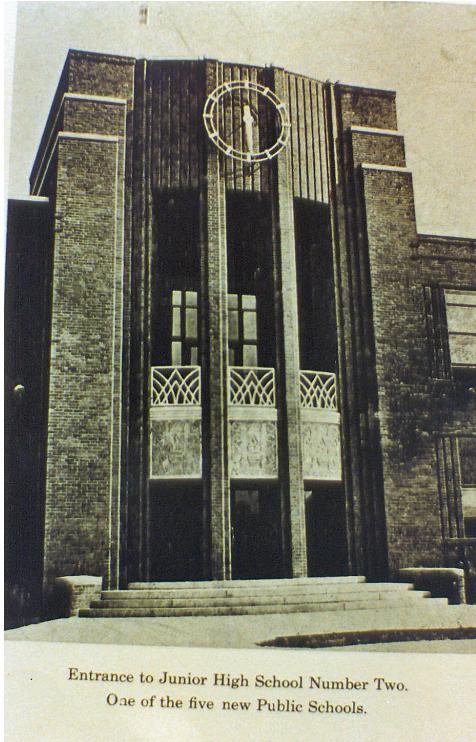
Presented by David Bosted, Pat Allen & Karl Flesch



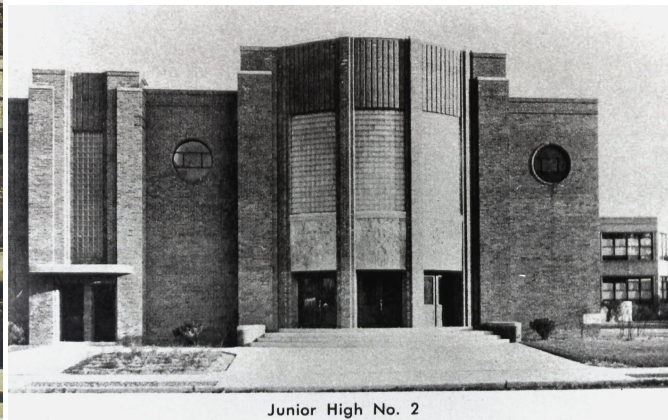
A quick digress is necessary as an elementary school was overlooked. When the Matelena family lived on Spruce Street in North Trenton, 1926-1937, they attended Columbus Elementary School which had two locations – the first was at Indiana & Olden Avenues followed by Brunswick & Mulberry Avenues where it remains to this day. It's unclear when the second school was built and that first building, pictured here, became St. Hedwig's Parochial School before returning to public use as the Paul Robeson Charter School.



As each entered their teen years, the Matelena girls attended Junior 1, at the intersection of Princeton & Southard, until 1942. In that year the family moved to Euclid Avenue and *new* Junior 2 at Gladstone and Cuyler Avenues was just a few



Entrance to Junior High School Number Two.
One of the five new Public Schools.



Junior High No. 2

blocks away. Whereas *old* Junior 2 was on Tyler Street next to the second Trenton Central High School since 1917, *new* Junior 2 was almost next to the third Trenton Central High School.

It is now the Hedgepeth-William Intermediate School.

Architecturally, Junior 2 is possibly the most stunning but each of the 5 junior high schools utilized a different style with this one being in the art deco style.





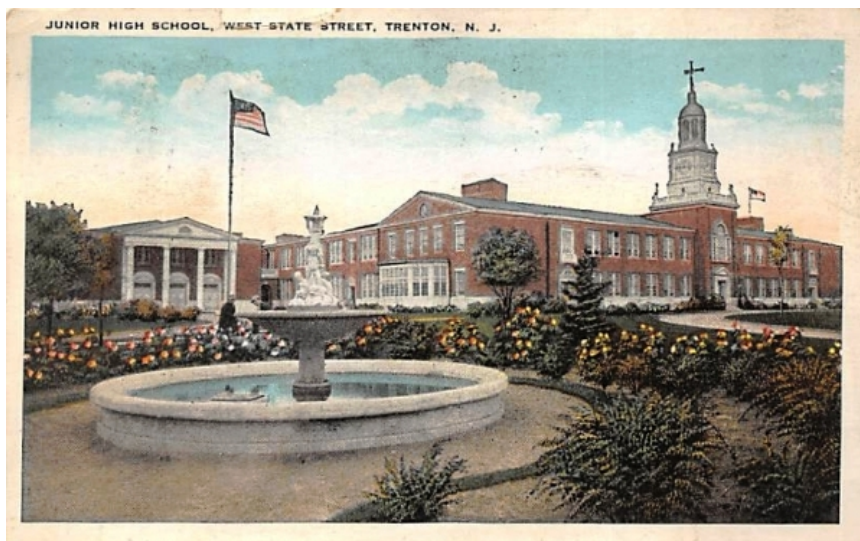
You always knew if you were late at 2.



The colonial-style Junior 3 had less a role in the family but its location – on West State Street between the Delaware River and Cadwalader Park – was the perfect place to play tennis and go sledding!



Junior High School Number 3 has been planned in Colonial Style to fit its su
western section of the city. The building will accommodate 1,500 Junior High Schoo

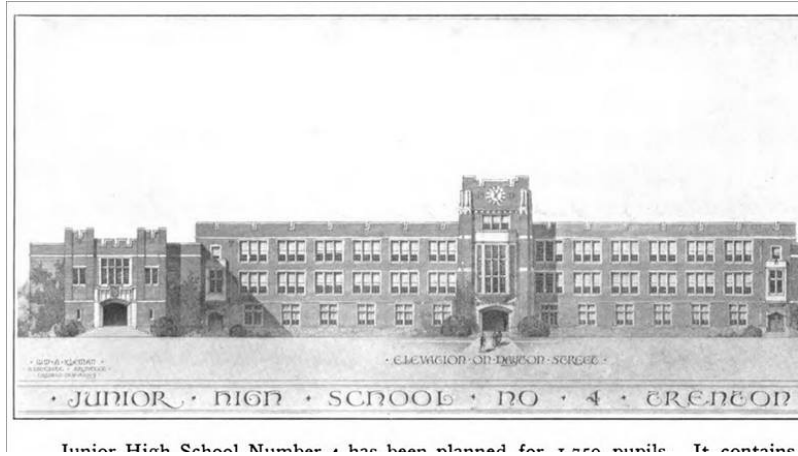




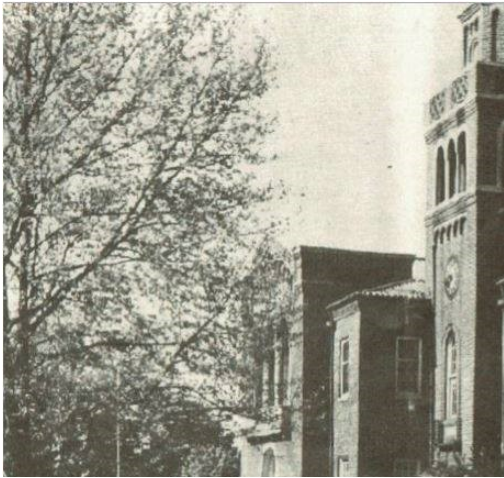
Close to the Dayton House Pub, the Smiths went to Junior 4.



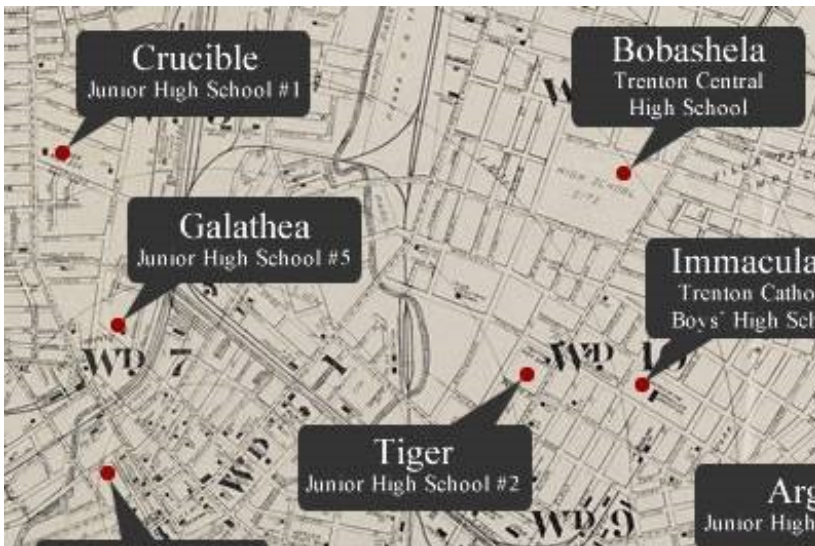
Now Grace Dunn
Intermediate School



The all black New Lincoln on Montgomery became the integrated Junior 5



and is now Rivera Intermediate..



Each school had a yearbook.

Trenton Central High School 1901-1932

"Biography of a High School" by William A. Wetzel (American Book Co: New York) 1937.

Glenn R. Modica "Trenton Central High School" Trenton Historical Society,
<http://www.trentonhistory.org/Events/TCHS.htm>; accessed 6 August 2008

In the late 1920s the Trenton Board of Education had the foresight and the good fortune to acquire one of the last undeveloped tracts in the city: the 36-acre Chambers Farm, then used as a nursery. The new high school would be the city's third, replacing the then existing high school at Chestnut and Hamilton Avenues built in 1900, which in turn replaced the first high school on Mercer Street built in 1874.

The facades of the two wings were embellished with four niches that were intentionally left vacant. They were intended to be filled with statues of school graduates- "poets, statesmen, philosophers, inventors- in fact, anyone who benefits mankind" according to Mayor Donnelly. Still, TCHS has had no shortage of famous alumni who could fill the niches, including composer and pianist George Antheil, tenor Richard Crooks and baseball players George Case and Al Downing.

Inside the school, the central building had an auditorium with a seating capacity for 1500. Rich velour draperies hung in the proscenium arch, and the lighting fixtures, which are still intact, featured light bulb cups made of Lenox china. In addition to a main school library, TCHS had three additional small department or "branch" libraries stocked with books on specific disciplines. If that weren't enough, the Briggs Branch of the Trenton Public Library also occupied space in the Hamilton Avenue wing. Works of art and sculpture, including a Lucca della Robbia frieze, a bust of Queen Victoria, and tile mosaics in the main hallway, embellished the interior in order to "surround the students...with a beauty that will contribute to their spiritual as well as their mental development."

Home economics also played an important role in the new school. Superintendent Dr. William J. Bickett, a strong advocate of a clean and thrifty household, ensured that TCHS came equipped with a two-room apartment with bath, all "with customary furniture and furnishings." The ultimate goal of the home economics courses, according to the department supervisor, "aims to help youth to meet efficiently the personal and home problems they encounter, and points to ways of attaining desirable improved conditions, to the end that they may become 'artists in living.'"

TCHS featured four gymnasiums, one for boys, one for girls, plus two "corrective" gymnasiums specifically intended "to correct outstanding physical defects such as bad posture, round shoulders and other physical conditions that interfere with a pupil's proper development."

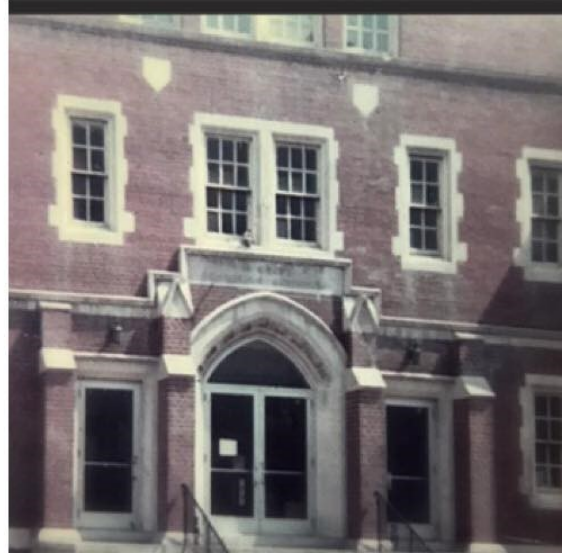
Catholic Schools in Trenton

A little background on Cathedral and several other Catholic high schools in Trenton. I can't say for certain when **St. Mary's Cathedral High School** opened its doors but a 1911 wedding announcement for a distant cousin states that she graduated from **Cathedral High School** with the class of 1904. (My mother graduated with the class of 1931.) Cathedral was coed through June 1936 when it changed to an all girls high school. **Immaculate Conception High School** opened in September 1922 and it too was coed through the 1935-36 school year. In September 1936 it became an all boys high school and fielded its first football team. Cathedral HS had played football prior to becoming all girls and in the fall of 1936, Immaculate Conception HS replaced Cathedral as the gridiron opponent for many schools that had scheduled a game against Cathedral for that fall. ICHS played all away games that first year. It wasn't until 1938 that the name of the high school was changed **from Immaculate Conception to Trenton Catholic Boys High School**. The nickname of the school remained "Golden Wave". Cathedral was known as the "Gaels". Other parishes in Trenton may have established their own high schools during earlier years but by the 1930s Immaculate Conception and St. Mary's Cathedral were the only parishes operating high schools in Trenton. Prior to the fall of 1936, I suspect which of these two high schools was attended was determined by which parish an eighth grader was a member. From the fall of 1936 until the Diocese of Trenton opened **Notre Dame High School** Lawrenceville in 1957, the sex of the student determined the high school that was attended. Parish affiliation was the factor that determined attendance at Notre Dame HS. The number of graduates of **Trenton Catholic** and **Cathedral** each declined by nearly 100 students between June 1957 and June 1961. Presumably these 200 students were now graduating from Notre Dame. In February 1962 it was announced that Trenton Catholic Boys High School would be closing at the end of the school year. Shortly thereafter, Msgr. Michael McCorristin of St. Anthony's Church on South Olden Avenue announced that his parish would be building a high school on Leonard Avenue in Hamilton Township for incoming freshman and transferred **sophomore students from St. Anthony, St. Raphael, Holy Angels and Immaculate Conception parishes**. The teaching staff would include lay teachers and Franciscan nuns. The Franciscan nuns of Aston, Pa. were also the primary teachers at the grammar schools operated by these same four parishes. Boys from these four parishes who would have been juniors and seniors at Trenton Catholic in September 1962 would transfer to Cathedral High School. The new school would be named **St. Anthony High School**. Its first graduating class was in June 1965 (my brother was a member of this class). Cathedral was coed again from September 1962 until it closed in June 1972. In June 1979 **St. Anthony HS was renamed McCorristin HS** in honor of its founder. It was **renamed again** in September 2005 **to Trenton Catholic Academy** and divided into an upper division (grades 9-12) and lower division (grades 1-8). Earlier in 2005, the diocese had announced the closing of last remaining parochial schools in the city of Trenton and those students attending the grammar schools operated by same four parishes that made up the first classes of St. Anthony High School in 1962 would comprise the lower division of TCA. The Trenton Historical Society website has compiled a list of graduates of some of these high schools from a number of the yearbooks published by the high schools. It can be found at: <http://www.trentonhistory.org/HSYearBooks.html>

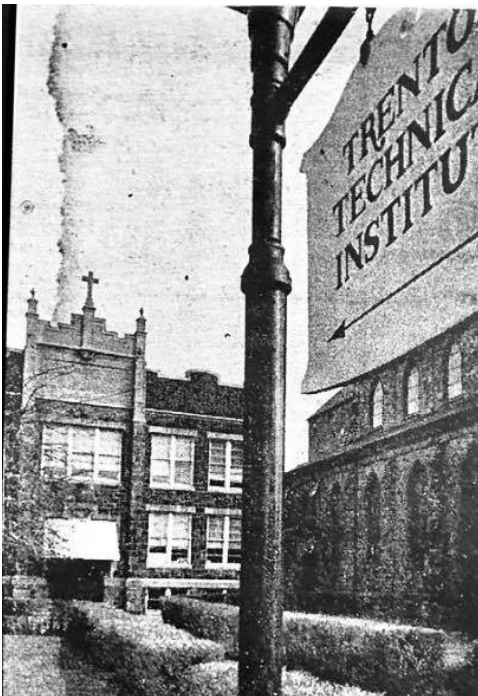
July 10, 2010 at 2:17 PM <http://mackstruckofwisdom.blogspot.com/2010/07/cathedral-high-school-trenton.html>



Cathedral High School

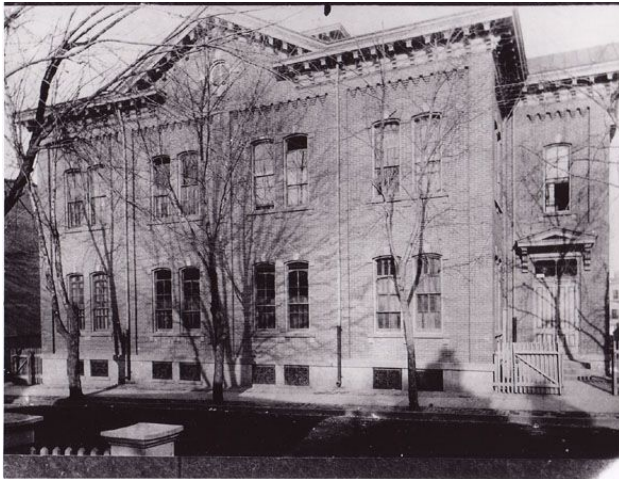


Trenton Catholic Boys High School



Trenton Central High School

What most people think when they hear *Trenton High School* is the school on Chambers

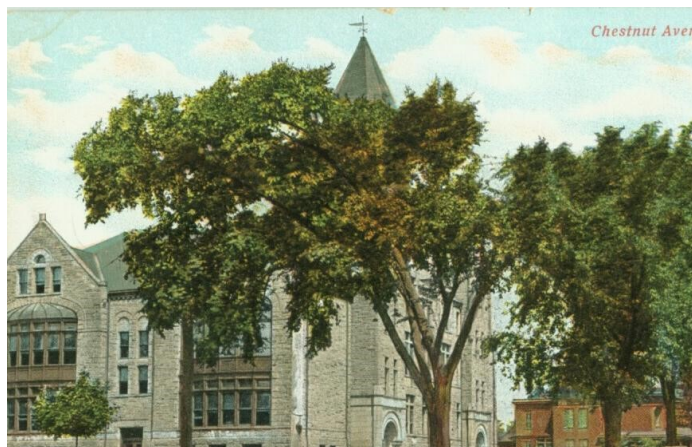
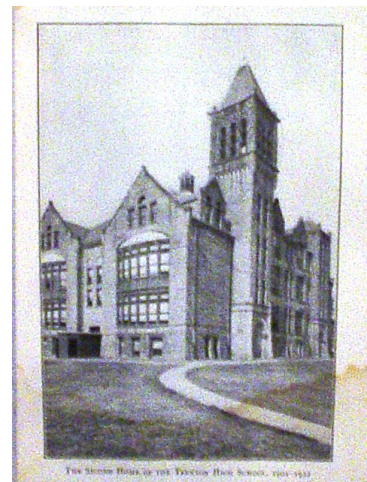


McKinley School on Mercer Street, erected in 1874.

Street. But there were two other TCHS before that one! The first on Market Street opened in 1874. When the second TCHS opened in 1900, the first became McKinley Elementary for a long time. It continued into the 21st century as offices before being razed.

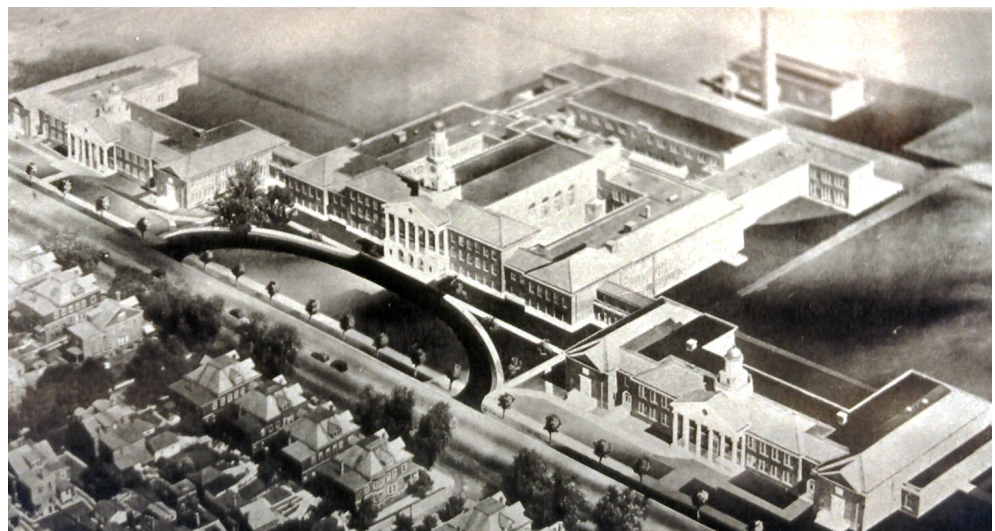


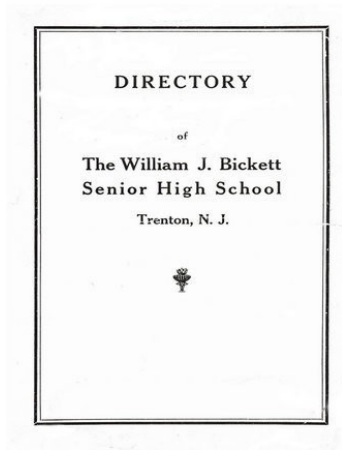
The second TCHS was on Chestnut & Hamilton, right next to the *old* Junior 2 on Tyler. It lasted until 1932.





Auditorium





By 2002, TCHS #3 had seen better days.



Meanwhile, out in Hamilton there was Grice Junior High and Hamilton High School – West, also called Watson Memorial High School.



Incidentally, Hamilton High was originally slated to be Junior 6 for Trenton but the township voted to have a separate school district and it became the high school instead.

